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# Historical Sketch of the County of Waterloo.

## GEOGRAPHICAL, GEOLOGICAL AND GENERAL.

Of the seven inland counties of the Western Peninsula of Ontario, whose borders are remote from provincial boundaries, none occupies a geographical position more eligible, a soil more fertile, or a material condition more advanced and developed than the county under review. Waterloo lies within the southern slope of the region named, and toward the south flow all its streams of considerable magnitude, with one exception. Situated just far enough west to fall without the Lake Ontario slope—considerably south of the height of land between it and Georgian Bay—and bordering closely upon the minor watershed of Central Perth, this county presents a uniform decline toward Lake Erie, into which its waters finally find exit through the channel of the Grand River. Its topographical features are in no locality virtually distorted, but are of a generally attractive order, consisting of a succession of undulations and intervals varying in degree.

The roughest features of surface displayed in the county are contiguous to its principal streams, whose banks in places assume an abrupt and picturesque appearance, rising to the dignity of decided cliffs, but anon subsiding into more easily arable levels. Of the streams mentioned, Grand River is much the most important, as well from the length of its course within the county as for the manufacturing facilities afforded by its great volume. This river enters the county near its northern limit, and pursues a remarkably tortuous course through the Townships of Woolwich and Waterloo, thence through North Dumfries to the Brant County limits. The air line distance thus traversed is about thirty miles, but the sinuous windings of the stream more than double the length mentioned. Next in importance is the River Conestoga, which traverses Wellesley Township from the north, and pursues a generally south-easterly direction to a junction with Grand River near the Village of Conestoga in Woolwich.

The River Speed holds but about six miles of its course in this county, entering Waterloo Township from Wellington County on the east, and flowing thence to its debouchment into Grand River about a mile below Preston, and four above Galt. The volume of the Speed is of great magnitude, ranking well to the Grand River in that respect. The River Nith, which is sometimes called by the less classical name of Smith's Creek, rises in Wellesley Township, whence it runs through Wellesley Village, Wilnot Township, New Hamburg, and South into Oxford County *en route* to its confluence with the Grand River at Paris. Other streams of merely local importance traverse the different parts of the county, several of which provide good motive power for manufacturing, the whole forming a network which has left no considerable area unsupplied with the manifold advantages incident to a system of natural water ways.

Of the townships comprising this county, North Dumfries is the most inclined to roughness of surface and lightness of soil, and indeed, with the exception of small contiguous areas of Waterloo and Wilnot, west of Grand River, Dumfries may be said to monopolize such of those features as are met with in the county. The course of the Grand River in this township is flanked by ridges of considerable altitude, which stain their greatest height in Galt and vicinity, whence the country undulates quite freely east and west, especially in the latter direction and toward the southern border of the township, where nature seems preparing a prelude for the contortions into which she twists herself in the township bordering on the south. The soil of Dumfries is of a sandy loam, the sand predominating in many localities, and in few sections does it partake of the sterling qualities incident to other parts of the county. Waterloo, Wilnot, Wellesley and Woolwich do not differ from each other materially in topographical character, each being of a very homogeneous and excellent, and possessing a soil where all varieties of fruit and cereals known to the latitude flourish in unexcelled luxuriance; and where fibrous plants seem specially favored, if we may judge by the popularity and success which has here attended the cultivation of flax during the past score of years.

### THE GEOLOGICAL FEATURES.

of Waterloo County are pregnant with interest to the scientist, and present many points of concern to all alike; but a brief synopsis of the more important of them is as much as the scope of the present work will permit. This county lies within the fourth of the subdivisions or districts into which geologists divide the Province of Ontario for convenience of geological description, and because of a uniformity in the leading features of its composition. The "Erie and Huron" District, including Waterloo, embraces all the territory between the lakes named, and is bounded on the east by the great "Niagara Escarpment," running from Niagara to Cabot's Head by way of Hamilton, Dundas, Georgetown, &c. The principal ingredients of its composition are limestones, in position comparatively undisturbed by the violent internal action which in past ages found vent in the upheavals and depressions which are characteristic of some sections of the Province, as well as other strata of the Silurian and Devonian periods which, arising at a generally uniform depth from the present surface, have been overlaid during the more recent age of geological development with Drift clays and sands and other still later accumulations, which have contributed to its great fertility and easy adaptability to purposes of agriculture.

The strata which chiefly abound in the eastern portion of this geological district, and including this county, belong to the middle and upper formations of the Silurian period. This "period" forms one of the five epochs into which the Paleozoic age is subdivided—the Paleozoic being the second most remote of the five "ages" into which the history of the earth's geological formation is divided. It follows, therefore, that the various formations of the Silurian period (it being the second earliest period of the Paleozoic age) were created or gathered at a very early date in mundane history. It is one of the

peculiarities of geology, however, that the formations of the different periods in no one locality appear successively from the earliest to the present, but (although in no case may be found the formation of an earlier resting upon that of a later period) it is by no means a rarity to observe formations of the earliest known period forming or protruding above the present surface; as, for instance, the rocks of the Laurentian period, the oldest known formation on the face of the globe, elevated in mountains or chains of mountains above the general level, as note the Laurentian mountains which skirt the northern shore of the Ottawa River. How these phenomena occurred must necessarily rest somewhat in conjecture, but the generally accepted theory obtains that they were caused by volcanic action at a time when the earth consisted of a molten or semi-molten mass. As it continued to wheel its course through infinite space, its temperature became gradually reduced, until, during the later periods of the Paleozoic age and thenceforward, it attained so low and uniform a degree as to support both animal and vegetable life, as is amply demonstrated by the fossilized remains thereof among the strata of succeeding periods. That the comparative level-lying formations of—say, the Paleozoic age should occur so near or at the surface of the present, is explained on numerous hypotheses, among them being that which supposes the portion of the earth where they are now displayed having remained elevated above the sea level during the ages in which the formations of the succeeding periods were taking place, then, by a further process, submerged again, when the for actions of the then existing peris. I would accumulate upon the floor made by the earlier strata, thus leaving gaps in the succession of the respective strata, varying in extent and proportions to the lapse of time occurring between the respective elevations and depressions of surface.

Of the formations incident to this locality, the earliest of consequence is the "Guelph," so called from its prevalence in the locality of the city named, which consists chiefly of dolomites of a peculiar semi-crystalline or granular texture. There are two ingredients entering into the composition of this formation when pure, viz.: carbonate of lime, 54.5 per cent., and carbonate of magnesia, 45.7 per cent. It occurs in extensive beds as a compact limestone, and also as crystalline granular rock (as above stated) of either white or colored hue. Much of the common white marble is Dolomite, which name was bestowed upon this formation in honor of Dolomieu, the eminent French geologist. Fine exposures of this formation are found at Galt, Preston, and Hespeler, on the Grand River as well as the River Speed, and at other localities on the former, above the confluence of the Speed, forming in some places a level bed of unknown depth, over which the river flows. This stone is valuable for building purposes, and has been so liberally utilized in the three towns named as to considerably monotonize their architectural characteristics. The stone supplies in durability what it lacks in beauty, the latter feature being conspicuous by its absence when weather-beaten with the lapse of time.

Another valuable geological gift bestowed upon the region is the "Onondaga," or "Gypsiferous" formation, succeeding the "Guelph" in ascending order. It is akin to the latter, but differs in the thickness of its layers, being usually quite thin-bedded, and of a yellowish or pale gray color, associated with greenish shales and irregular beds of gypsum. These deposits seem to have been formed from precipitates accumulating in ancient salt lakes or bays, in which active evaporation was going on. The only exposure of any moment in this county occurs near the Town of Waterloo, though the formation underlies a goodly portion of the county, but like the "Guelph," is generally covered by glacial and other superficial deposits. From the somewhat varying varieties of this formation are several valuable commodities secured, notably the building stone extensively used in Waterloo Town; the gypsum, or "plaster," quarried at Cayuga and in Seven Townships; the dolomite and argillaceous shale which, in the vicinity of Walkerton, furnishes valuable material for the manufacture of hydraulic cement; and it is thought that from this formation the brine supplying the salt works of Huron and Perth Counties is obtained, by boring through overlying deposits.

As before intimated, a wide break occurs in the geological succession from the formations named (which are the latest of the Silurian period noticed in Waterloo) to those of the Glacial and Post-Glacial periods of the present or Androzoic age—the gap representing probably not less than a hundred centuries as now computed. These latter consist of various specimens of clays; including the "Erie clay," from which very fine white and yellow bricks are made, comprising, as it does, the calcareous or carbonate of lime in a high degree; and the "Saugen clays," which present a generally brown color, and although partaking of the calcareous nature, yield, as a rule, red bricks. Layers of sand and gravel are commonly associated with these clays, the whole being overlaid in many localities with more recent accumulations, the principal of which, in this county, are the sandy flats of the Grand River and other streams, the high fertility of which is proverbial.

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Our remarks upon these topics must be necessarily of a general rather than a statistical character, as throughout the period of the county's progress to which the most critical interest is naturally attached, viz., the few decades intervening between the inception of civilization in these wilds, and the attainment of a self-dependent degree of advancement by its young settlements, the territorial subdivisions of the province treated of in census reports were so large as to include several counties in one, thus defeating the effort to obtain statistical items relating to the county as now constituted, and as distinguished from the others with which it chanced to be grouped from time to time in "blue book" literature.

Prior to the dawn of the present century the denizens of the forest held carnival along the banks of the Grand, Speed and Conestoga

Rivers, and revelled in the forest fastnesses extending in either direction from the margins of those streams. There are few evidences that the sway of beast and bird among these solitudes was disturbed by the presence of human life until the advent upon the scene of a considerable faction of the Six Nation Indians soon after the close of the War of Independence, which scourged the Thirteen Colonies of British misrule, notwithstanding the employment of savages and Hessians by the vanquished, to prevent that result. Among the allies of Britain in that struggle was the Iroquois Confederacy, or Six Nation Indians, comprising the remnants of the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora tribes, whose acts of rapine and bloodshed, executed upon unprotected border settlements of the struggling Continentals, caused the "Great Father," George III., to take his "red children" metaphorically to his breast, and to provide them with a grant of hunting grounds extending six miles on either side of the Grand River, from its mouth to its source. There are not wanting those who attribute this act of British "diplomacy" to a principle born of oppression—elsewhere illustrated in India, Afghanistan, and South Africa—and recognize therein a policy of accomplishing by bribes what bayonets failed to effect. An enthusiastic local historian has described the payment of this bribe to the Six Nations as "a noble expression of the good faith and gratitude of the British Crown to the weakest of its subjects;" but he might truthfully have added that one title of the same degree of "good faith" "expressed" toward the colonies at the proper juncture, would have averted the contest of which the removal hither of the Six Nations was a consequential circumstance.

The 18th century had nearly closed before the forests of Waterloo were invaded by white men in any capacity, and not until the birth of the present century was the herald of husbandry planted upon the banks of Grand River above the southern confines of the county. The pioneers of the county arrived with their families in the spring of 1800, and settled on the river bank at Doon of the present time. A reference to our sketch of Waterloo Township will show the circumstances connected with the advent of the parties in question—Samuel Betner and Joseph Sherk—upon the scene, as well as the salient features of the development of the newly founded community, together with the names of others of its pioneers. This advance guard of civilization came hither from Pennsylvania, whence was drawn the nucleus of the settlements of the Township of Woolwich as well, at a somewhat later date.

It is not our purpose to here describe in detail the circumstances of early settlement throughout the county, but merely to trace an outline of the order in which the different communities were settled, leaving the particulars for our sketches of the several townships. With each successive season came fresh additions to the population of Waterloo, in which, during the year named, there also located Christian and John Reichart, and their families, near Freeport of the present.

Woolwich ranks next to Waterloo as regards the time of its settlement, though the precise date of the location of its pioneer is not easy of definite assertion. The one in question was Thomas Smith, who located on the Grand River near the confluence of the Conestoga with that stream. He came in probably not later than 1810, and had at any rate been there a number of years when George Ely and family settled in the same locality, but west of the Grand River, in 1815. There was but the addition of one family to the population of Woolwich up to 1820, that of Simon Cross, but soon thereafter its settlement received an impulse from the arrival of new immigrants, and thenceforward marched on to the proud position it now occupies among the wealthiest rural municipalities in the Province.

The settlement of Dumfries ranks next in order, considering the present Town of Galt as a part of that township, of course. As early as 1802, it would appear, an American named Miller—to whom some attribute the Christian name of "John," while by Galt's local historian he is referred to as "Alexander" Miller—purchased a tract embracing the present site of Galt in great part, and proceeded to erect a mill after the crude and primitive pattern of the times. It was built by an ere while "squatter" in the neighborhood named Dodge, who was a millwright by trade. It is alleged by some parties that the mill was actually put into operation for gristing, with one Mac as miller, but as much uncertainty exists on this point among those who should know the facts, no solution of the doubt is here attempted; but certain it is that the mill soon fell into decay, and it is affirmed that Miller returned to the United States and participated on the American side in the War of 1812, thus forfeiting his right to his Grand River property.

The "re-founding" of Galt occurred in July, 1816, when a mill was built there by Abigail Shade, under the direction of Hon. William Dickson, a Niagara lawyer, who had purchased the entire Township of Dumfries, and from that time forward Galt had an existence in fact as well as in name, by which latter term some people are disposed to describe its previous existence.

Wilnot received no considerable stream of immigration until the location in 1824 of a colony of Amish Mennonites from Europe direct, and principally from the Low Countries. The influx hither of Anglo-Saxons did not commence until about 1830, and was then, confined chiefly to the southern third of the township.

Wellesley was the latest of the five townships to witness the inception of improvement within its borders. Its territory remained in the ownership of the Government after that on the east, west and south had been granted away from the Queen, and to this township was applied the name of the "Queen's Bush" as lately as 1850, though as early as 1832 there were two settlers (Curtis and Ansell) on the Wellesley side of the border where Heidelberg now stands. The settlement of the township did not become at all general, however, until after its survey, which was effected in 1842, after which date the influx was



large and constant, till all parts of the township were in a measure filled.

Attention was rarely directed to the construction of mills, the first in the field with an improvement of this kind having been John Erb, who had a saw mill in operation at "Cambridge"—as the western part of the present Village of Preston was then called—as early as the fall of 1806; and within a short time thereafter he added gristing facilities to his establishment, though not until Abraham Erb had got his Waterloo grist mill in operation. The only trade mark, the county as late as 1815 was what would be now considered an inadequate apology for a "store," located on the hilltop at Cambridge, and under the proprietorship of a widow lady, named Lesser, barring which institution there was no mercantile establishment short of where Dundas now stands; but it was not long till others were opened, one of the first having been kept by Abalom Shade at Galt, though this was not started till toward the close of 1816. With the impetus imparted to the development of the county by the termination of hostilities between Britain and America in 1815, the spirit of enterprise found further expression in the construction of mills, small mechanics' shops, opening of stores, etc. Wilmot was favored with a mill built at New Hamburg in 1833, but Woolwich had no such facilities till about 1850, when saw and grist mills were erected at Conestogo, prior to which time the people of that township were supplied by the mills of Waterloo Township, which increased in number quite rapidly.

Educational interests received early attention from the intelligent pioneers, and though few in numbers, they were energetic in providing the means of enlightenment for their children. In 1802, the second year after the location of the pioneer settlers, a school-house of logs was erected near the Village of Blair now is, and there one Rittenhaus was first to "teach the young ideas." Other schools followed as the needs of the different localities demanded them, and these, being practically utilized by the people, have left their impress upon the standard of local intelligence in a gratifying and practical form. But while the secular education of the young was thus cared for, the spiritual instruction of all ages was not neglected. As before intimated, the pioneers of this region held the Mennonitish faith, one article of which creed is the peculiarity in the selection of its ministers, by which they followed the plan of the eleven disciples in filling the vacancy created by Judas' treason and fall from grace, namely, electing one of their brethren by vote; and in the same manner could they be "silenced" if in any case they should fall into the advocacy of schism, or preach a doctrine at variance with the general sentiment. The first to receive spiritual charge of the new settlement on Grand River was Joseph Bechtel, then a young man of acquisitions above the average, but he was succeeded in the pulpit, in 1810, by Benjamin Eby, whose kindly, paternal care of the spiritual affairs of the people, together with his venerable manner, won for him the title of Father of the Settlement.

To our several sketches of the different townships within the county the reader is referred for incidents of their respective marches toward the common goal of agricultural, industrial, commercial, and intellectual development—the principal object of allusion to these subjects in this place being simply to enhance the facilities for convenient reference to comparative dates, etc. It remains to merely notice in this connection the high state of development in each of the above enumerated branches attained by Waterloo and its people, there being no county of equal size in this fair Province which can eclipse, if indeed there be any to successfully compete with, Waterloo in all or any of the respects mentioned. Its population in the immediate vicinity of 40,000; its superficial area about 320,000 acres, or 500 square miles; its assessed valuation about \$12,000,000; its manufacturing interests extensive and healthy, having turned out manufactured products to the value of about five million dollars during the year embraced in the latest census returns. The county is well supplied with railway facilities, having two trunk lines traversing its entire breadth east and west, viz., the Grand Trunk in the centre and the Credit Valley in the south—besides which the former road has branches from Berlin to Waterloo, two miles, and to Galt, twelve miles; and the Wellington, Grey and Bruce division of the Great Western Railway traverses about fifteen miles of the south-easterly part of the county. One hundred and twenty churches, and about an equal number of schools, attest the popular regard in which secular and spiritual education is held by the people, whose affluence, as displayed in all external equipments of home comfort, is obvious to the most casual observer who traverses the railways or turnpikes of the county. And this suggests a reference to the excellent roads connecting the different communities of the little commonwealth. On this score the highest commendations are merited by those whose enterprise and labor have contributed to the existing state in the course of extended driving through a majority of the counties of Ontario and Quebec, the writer has found no more uniformly excellent standard of highways than here prevails, and in no county will one find the tollage of the dark ages—the toll-gate—has been banished, is the standard so high as in Waterloo. In ancient times, the existence of good highways and a high degree of intelligence and civilization in any country were considered concomitant facts, and, in truth, the former was taken as conclusive evidence of the latter. If we apply the same criterion to Waterloo (and an acquaintance with its people suggests the entire propriety of so doing), it will pass without saying that the residents of this county are among the most advanced and enlightened anywhere to be found in this Province situated with schools and churches, and all other attributes of public morality and intelligence.

The present seems a fitting place in which to acknowledge our obligation and extend our thanks to those residents of the county who so kindly lent their aid in the collection of data and imparting information upon which this sketch of the history of Waterloo is founded. Our personal interviews with those conceeded to be among the best informed on such topics, have been too numerous to warrant individual mention of their names. Justice, however, demands our acknowledgments to two published authorities. One of these is embraced in a series of interesting articles published in the *Waterloo Chronicle* during 1866, confined chiefly in their scope to the Township of Waterloo. These were written by Mr. P. E. W. Moyer, then proprietor of the journal named, but now publisher of the *Berlin Daily News*. The other subject of reference is a decidedly readable little book, under the title of *Reminiscences of the Early History of Galt and the Settlement of Dumfries*, which needs no other statement to recommend it than that it was written by James Young, M.P.P., of the town named, in his usual attractive and polished style.

#### PARLIAMENTARY AND POLITICAL.

The history of politics and political contests in Waterloo partakes of no very ancient feature, for, so little were the pioneers inclined to

participate in what was, during the first third of this century, the force of Government, that the different elections to the Assembly—the creation, reconstruction, and dissolutions of Cabinets—the various deft and wily shuffles of the political cards by the favored few who misruled the Province by the will of themselves and the grace of the Governor—or the patriotic protests of the few daring spirits who braved the storm of executive hate, scarce created an interest or awakened an echo in this part of Canada till the first quarter of the century had fled.

During that period of indifference on the part of Waterloo electors, some of whom had been in the county from the dawn of the century, the gravest abuses of administrative power had insinuated themselves into the high places of the State. Favoritism toward the "chosen ones," oppression of those outside the fold of personal or political kinship; the bestowal of enormous tracts of the most valuable of the public lands upon party henchmen for imaginary or illegal considerations, and a dross of forms of corruption, distinguished—and finally extinguished—the party then conducting the Government. They were usually gentlemen (if the term is permissible) of aristocratic ideas, and education much above the average then prevailing, in whose liberal and enlightened minds the belief existed that the people were made for the Government, not the latter for the former. By cultivating a degree of exclusiveness in their social and domestic relations, and confining the principal offices of State to the members of a few families, this governmental machine came in time to be known as the "Family Compact," a term whose happy conception should immortalize the name of its originator, could it be definitely ascertained.

By a long succession of encroachments upon the popular rights, gradual and insidious at first, defiantly asserted later on, they reduced the liberty of the people to a mere phrase, and where no law existed by which to punish any who should have the temerity to publicly express an opinion at variance with their own, they could usually depend upon the judges who held seats in their Council to give a favorable interpretation of some effete statute of the Feudal Period, and thus provide for the case (and the imprisonment) of their critic.

As all know, these acts in time led to the Rebellion in 1837, but long prior to that event, the agitation of which it was the culmination began to gather force, and vigorous protests were recorded against the policy of declaring conventions to be "sedition gatherings," prohibiting public meetings to discuss politics, placing all Liberals under the ban of the Government; and denouncing a loyal political party as traitors and rebels. Having the public purse and the offices of the Province at their command, of course the "Compact" could rely upon the due execution of their edicts. They corrupted the officers of all grades who were "approachable," and robbed the bench of its independence by admitting to a share in the making of the laws the judges and magistrates who were to administer them later. They ignored repeated expressions of the public contempt for their policy, and clung to the reins of government in spite of adverse parliamentary majorities, by the grace of a peculiar constitution framed to suit their own exigencies. By their imprudence they finally compassed the object of driving some of their political opponents into open revolt. The sympathies and co-operation was thus denied the insurgents, of thousands who abhorred revolution only more intensely than the means of provoking it. The result of that revolt is too well known to call for description here. Though a decided failure in a military sense, yet the political reforms resulting from it, and developing into the full measure of civil and political liberty which we now enjoy, proclaim the Mackenzie Rebellion as one of the most successful insurrections of modern times.

The territory now comprising the County of Waterloo was originally a portion of York County, but upon Halton being carved out, this region was included within the limits of the county last named. Circumstances suggest the fact that, of the residents within the present County of Waterloo, the Scotch settlers of Dumfries—a leading attribute of whose nationality is a passion for political freedom and justice—were ahead of their German brethren further north in evincing an interest in the parliamentary elections. The first of these which created any considerable ripple, even in Dumfries, occurred in 1825, during the period of their connection with Halton County. At that time it was customary to hold the poll at the hustings, whither all who wished to vote were obliged to repair, the poll being held open a week. On the occasion referred to the hustings were located near the present Village of Burlington, but the distance did not prevent a large proportion of the Dumfries electors from attending and contributing their votes (a vast majority of them being Liberals) to the return of the two Reform candidates, Richard Beasley and William Scottick, the former of whom had previously figured in Grand River land transactions, as our sketch of Waterloo Township will reveal.

Dissolutions were in those days resorted to to get rid of an Assembly at variance with the Executive Council, which was nominated by the Crown, and consequently composed of most devoted members of the Compact. One of these dissolutions resulted in another general election in 1828, when other two Reform candidates were elected for Halton, viz., George Rolph and Caleb Hopkins, both names of distinction in the subsequent contention between the oligarchy and the people.

Another dissolution followed the death of George IV. in 1830, but in Halton the Tory party was successful on that occasion, and James Crooks and William Chisholm were the members returned. The following year Mr. Crooks was called to a seat in the Legislative Council, whereupon Abalom Shade, of Galt, also a Tory (whose name will figure very prominently in connection with the history of that town), was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Shade participated in the proceedings by which the House, on five different occasions during that Parliament, expelled Wm. Lyon Mackenzie from its membership. Mackenzie was as often promptly re-elected by his constituents of York County, however, and was thus elevated to a still higher place in the popular affection because of his persecutions. He was invited and came to Galt in the course of a "stamping" tour, where he addressed the electors of this section—which, by the way, received the nick-name of "the States" because of the strong sentiment prevailing in the village and township in favor of Mackenzie. The occasion of his visit was so fraught with local interest as to warrant an extended description, in Mr. Young's "Reminiscences."

The Eleventh Parliament died a natural death in 1834, and a new Assembly was elected, in which the Reformers regained their sway, counting among their number Messrs. Caleb Hopkins and James Durand, who were returned from Halton. The Opposition still showed no such vitality, and expressed their defiance of the popular will in every conceivable manner. The storm of public indignation against them, as expressed in a long list of petitions to the British Government, and in a series of public meetings throughout the Province, began to cause some concern in England, and Sir John Colborne was retired

from the head of the civil to the military branch of the Government, to which the arbitrary attributes of his nature much better fitted him. He was succeeded by Sir Francis Bond Head late in 1835, whose chief recommendation was that he had displayed some skillful pedestrianism on the South American pampas, and had written a novel containing much more wit than wisdom, though not an overplus of the former.

The arrival of Sir Francis marked an epoch in Canadian history, as many hopes were centered upon the course which he should see fit to adopt—hopes, indeed, for an expression of that degree of impartiality and integrity of which his appointment to such a position would naturally warrant the expectation. Such hopes were soon blasted, however, by his forming an "offensive and defensive" alliance with the Compact, after a brief political "flirtation" with their chief opponents, Baldwin, Bidwell, Rolph and Dunn. The gallant knight, not content with passive partiality, took the aggressive, and harangued the people in nearly all parts of the Province upon the theme of "loyalty," that topic which has so often since done service as a political hack. The result was that many opposition constituencies were converted to the party which Sir Francis patronized. Halton again veered round and elected two Conservative candidates in the persons of Abalom Shade and William Chisholm, and many of the leading Reformers, including Mackenzie, Peter Perry, Marshall Spring Bidwell, and Samuel Lount, lost their seats. Despair seized the friends of popular government, who looked upon the result as a triumph wrung from the people by partisan misrepresentations of the new Governor and his allies.

The appeal to arms; the mutiny at Montgomery's Tavern; the vacillating policy of the unskilled leaders; the collision at Gallows Hill; the rout of the "Patriots," the flight of Rolph and Mackenzie; the capture, trial and execution of Lount and Matthews; and the suppression of the incipient insurrection in other localities, are too familiar to all Canadians to demand a recital here. The same remark applies to the Commission of Lord Durham to inquire into and report to the Home Government upon the causes of the insurrection, and the best remedy for the abuses which led to it. That nobleman's report was a masterly document, detailing the programme of misrule in both Upper and Lower Canada, and recommending the Union of the Provinces, the establishment of municipal institutions, and a parliamentary constitution recognizing the principle of responsible government, all of which were embodied in an Act of the Imperial Parliament which became law on February 10th, 1841, and was thus afforded by legislation the boon which Mackenzie and his partisans had so long and so fruitlessly demanded, and the failure to obtain which had precipitated a conflict that nothing save genuine reforms could have much longer avoided.

The county of which we write, or rather the township now composing it, though not then exempt from the so-called "sedition" of the period, were the disaffection was confined principally to the Scotch residents of Dumfries, whose insatiable love of liberty took a more demonstrative turn than that of their German neighbors on the north. As some rather interesting acts in the drama of the times were played in the township named, the occasion seems a fitting one to recite from Young's "Reminiscences."

"How public feeling ran throughout Dumfries may be understood from a circumstance which occurred at the time. The authorities under Sir Francis Bond Head, at Toronto, wrote to Mr. Shade to ascertain the feelings of the people, having the idea that, if friendly, it might be well to call out the local militia and place arms in their hands. Shade replied in effect that the inhabitants were mostly Scotch, generally quiet and inoffensive, but it would be better not to put arms in their hands."

As Mackenzie, Lount, and other leaders of the revolution were suspected of having fled towards Galt, a guard, composed of a local militia company called the Galt Volunteers, was placed over the bridge across Grand River at this point, and for several weeks the "tramp of armed men" resounded through the streets of the diminutive village, while the marching platoons imparted a decidedly martial aspect to the locality. But we read further:

"As Dr. Duncombe endeavored to raise an insurgent force at Oakland Plains, near Brantford, the Government made efforts, for a time, to get as many of the Provincial Militia under arms as possible."

With this object in view, Messrs. Jackson and Shade publicly called upon the settlers of Dumfries to muster in Galt on a certain day. This order caused considerable consternation among their wives and families. An eye-witness relates how "in one house near Cedar Creek, on the muster day, he found the wives of nearly all the neighbors crying bitterly, under the fear that their husbands would be killed during the war and themselves left desolate."

"The only part of Dumfries in which companies were organized to assist in the Rebellion appears to have been in the neighborhood of Smith's Creek, near Mudge's Mills, as the Village of Ayr was then called. The place of meeting was McBain's Mill (one mile beyond the village), and when the disaffected assembled, one morning in December, to proceed to join Dr. Duncombe's army at Oakland Plains, such a mustering of old rusty rifles and melting of bullets was never before seen, at least in that neighborhood. On this particular occasion about thirty persons assembled, but other squads were to follow."

"Shortly before starting two men appeared on the hill above the mills, who seemed to be cautiously surveying the gathering. One report says they were Capt. Rich and Lieut. Gordon, who had been sent with the Galt Volunteers to make certain arrests in the neighborhood; and the crowd, on hearing who they were, disappeared in the double crack. Another statement is that the men proved to be two of Mackenzie's comrades, who informed the incipient rebels of what had transpired since the defeat at Gallows Hill, and afterwards accompanied them to Oakland Plains. Which of these reports is most reliable it is difficult at this late day to determine; but it is certain that in Dr. Duncombe's army, when it dispersed at Scotland, on Col. McNab (afterward Sir Allan) having decided to advance from Brantford and attack it, there were not a few men who had gone from the vicinity of Smith's Creek."

"It is maintained by a militia officer, still living, that Samuel Lount, for many years member for Simcoe and Mackenzie's chief lieutenant at Gallows Hill, was secreted for some days in Galt. It was suspected by the magistrats at the time, . . . but his arrest would have convicted others of high treason who had done nothing but harbor one who had been outlawed. A sharp look-out was kept, however. Lount, who is said to have been part of the time in the then almost impenetrable swamp below the late Mr. Crombie's house, was one Sunday morning, moved on, to a farm house near Glenmorris. A local magistrate being notified, is said to have entered the front door of the house as Lount went out of the back door. He

was conveyed by a member of a well-known South Dumfries family to Waterloo, where he lay concealed in a hay mow of Grover's hotel, at the very time when Col. Wilson and men, of Simcoe, were on the watch for him and others. It was amidst such hairbreadth escapes that Lount made his way to the Niagara frontier, where, within sight of the United States and safety, he was captured.

When Mackenzie established himself on Navy Island, the Galt, Guelph and Fergus Volunteers went down to the Niagara frontier, under command of Col. McNab. Some of the Galt Volunteers declined to go to the front, and the number which went was only about twenty men. They were conveyed down in farmers' wagons, which were impressed for the purpose. It was deemed a curious circumstance that the Guelph company was commanded by Captain Poor and that from Galt by Captain Rich.

From 1835 to 1841 there were no further parliamentary contests throughout the Province, the old Parliament and the Family Compact dying together upon the advent of the new order of affairs, by which Upper and Lower Canada, after forty-nine years of separate existence, were again united for purposes of government. A redistribution of seats was another feature of the change, by which the County of Halton was divided into East and West Ridings, in the latter of which Waterloo and a goodly portion of Wellington counties of the present were included. This Riding elected a Liberal, in the person of James Durand, who had previously sat for Halton.

In 1844 the Second Parliament of United Canada was elected. Sir Charles Metcalfe was then Governor, and, with the single exception of Sir Francis Bond Head, no Exeter or Canada ever so completely nullified his opportunities for meddling, by blind but rampant partisanship.

The hostility between the two parties became more intense as election time approached, and bitter indeed was the struggle for supremacy at the polls. In West Halton the contest lay between Mr. Durand, the late Liberal member, and James Webster, a Conservative of Fergus. Mr. Webster was declared elected by a majority of eight, but because of various instances of "crookedness" on the part of his supporters, Mr. Durand entered a petition against his return; among the grounds complained of being that as Deputy Returning Officer received the votes of eight women in Webster's favor; and that, in order to delay the voting and prevent the record of all the Reform votes of the German townships, the Conservatives resorted to the novel trick of swearing most all old grey-haired Liberals as to whether they were of lawful age. After many tedious proceedings the petition was dismissed by the House, and Mr. Webster confirmed in his seat.

The greater part of this territory continued to belong to the West Riding of Halton up to 1852, and for the constituency named Mr. Durand was successful in the election of 1848 by Mr. John Wettenhall, also a pronounced Liberal, who, in 1851, gave place to Mr. John White, of Milton, of the same shade of politics.

It is worthy of remark, however, that during the Second Parliament the Wellington District (comprising Grey, Wellington and the northern townships of Waterloo County) was set apart as a separate representative division—the candidates at the first election of 1848 being Messrs. James Webster, of Fergus, above-named, the Conservative nominee, and A. J. Ferguson, subsequently Hon. A. J. Ferguson-Blair, of Guelph, Liberal, the latter of whom won his election by a narrow majority. For the Fourth Parliament, the election to which occurred late in 1851, Mr. Blair was again successful in securing his election, his opponent on that occasion being a Mr. Wright, who had attained to a place of prominence in the municipal affairs of the District.

During the Fourth Parliament there were some radical changes made in the map of Upper Canada, upon which, thereafter, the following new counties appeared, viz.: Victoria, Peel, Waterloo, Erant, Wellington, Grey, Bruce and Lambton. Waterloo had previously had a nominal existence, but it was now reduced in size to its present proportions, and given a *de facto* status as a municipal corporation. There was also a redistribution and a great increase of parliamentary seats, two of which were allotted to Waterloo. Its North Riding was composed of Wellesley, Woolwich, and about the northern half of Waterloo Township; while the South Riding contained the balance of Waterloo, together with Wilmot and Dumfries, as at present.

The general election of 1854 witnessed a contest in either Riding, that in the north lay between Messrs. Wm. McDougall and Michael Hamilton Foley, each of whom subsequently earned the distinguishing prefix of "Honorable." Mr. McDougall was a supporter of the Hincks Government of the day, which was most immediately opposed by the *Globe*; and Mr. Foley was a member of that section of that wing of the Reform party led by George Brown, which about that time began to be distinguished by the name of "Clear Grits." The "seat" was awarded to Mr. Foley, who was a resident of Simcoe. In the South Riding the contest lay also between representatives of the rival wings of the Reform party. The Government devotees presented Mr. George S. Tiffin, a Hamilton lawyer, who was opposed and defeated by Mr. Robert Ferris of Doon. The latter gentleman received the support of the Conservatives generally, and secured the entire vote polled in Galt, with one exception, his majority in that village having been 105, and in the Riding, 205.

In 1858 another general election occurred. Meantime the Hincks Government had been out-voted, and a Cabinet, in which John A. Macdonald was for the first time included, formed by Sir Allan McNab, from the Conservative and Hincks parties—this being the first coalition Government ever organized in Canada. The general election was held early in the year, and brought Mr. Foley again into the field in the North Waterloo, where he was elected by acclamation. In the South Riding, William Scott, a farmer of Wilmot, was elected as an independent Conservative, in opposition to the Liberal candidate, Andrew Elliott, then a merchant of Galt, but now an extensive woollen manufacturer of Almonte. On the assembling of Parliament, one of the most prominent topics of debate was the "Seat of Government" question. On the advice of the Ministry, the Queen (to whom the selection of a location had been left) had made choice of Ottawa.

The opposition, led by George Brown, voted to censure them for so advising Her Majesty, and the Government was defeated by a majority of fourteen. Mr. Brown at once formed a Cabinet, including Mr. Foley, but while some of the new ministers were absent seeking re-election, the Conservatives utilized the reaction which had set in among the members, some of whom now began to regret the hasty vote on the question referred to, and out-voted the Cabinet on a "want of confidence" motion, and they resigned after a two days' term of office, whereupon another coalition Government was formed by Hon. John A. Macdonald.

The Sixth Parliament was elected in 1861, when Hon. Mr. Foley was again returned in North Waterloo. In the South Riding, the same

year, James Cowan, Liberal, of Waterloo Township, and a farmer by occupation, was elected over Jacob Hespeler, of the village which now bears his name, who was the Conservative candidate.

The Seventh and last parliament of old Canada was elected in 1863. Mr. Foley again received election in the North Riding, though opposed by John Hoffman, of Waterloo Village, Conservative; and in the south, Mr. Cowan was again elected, this time in opposition to Mr. Wm. Robinson, Conservative, a manufacturer, of Galt. On the defeat of the (Sandfield) Macdonald-Dorion, and the formation of the (John A.) Macdonald-Taché Cabinet, in 1864, Mr. Foley accepted a seat in the latter, but upon an appeal for re-election he was defeated by Isaac E. Bowman, a Woolwich farmer, who ran as the straight-out Liberal candidate.

With the advent of Confederation came the establishment of both Federal and Provincial Legislatures; the former (as regards its popular branch) called the House of Commons—the latter the Legislative Assembly. The representative divisions of Waterloo were left with undisturbed limits.

Following first the succession to membership in the House of Commons, we find that for the North Riding Isaac E. Bowman was re-elected at the election of 1867, without opposition. In the South Riding, the Liberals again nominated Mr. Cowan, but before election day, Mr. James Young, a journalist, of Galt, was substituted on the "ticket" for Mr. Cowan, who was thereupon taken up by the Conservatives, but defeated by Mr. Young.

The elections of 1871 and 1874 presented the peculiar feature in this county of the unexpected return of Messrs. Bowman and Young for the respective Ridings.

The latest election to the Commons, which occurred September 17th, 1878, wrought a revolution in the politics of this county in common with the Dominion in general, and led to the defeat of the two gentlemen who had continued to represent Waterloo since Confederation. In the North Riding, the successful candidate was Hugo Kranz, merchant, of Berlin; and in the south, Samuel Merner, manufacturer, of New Hamburg.

The First Parliament of Ontario was elected in 1867. In North Waterloo the candidates came forward—Messrs. Moses Springer, of Waterloo, Liberal, and John Zager, merchant, of Wellesley Village, Conservative; the first named being successful. In South Waterloo the contest lay between Isaac Clemens, a Waterloo Township farmer, Liberal, and James Crombie, a Conservative manufacturer, of Galt; defeat being the portion of the latter gentleman.

The Sandfield Macdonald coalition appealed to the country in 1871, and a general election ensued. Mr. Springer was on that occasion elected by acclamation in the North Riding, and for the seat in the South Mr. Clemens defeated the Conservative nominee, Mr. Abraham Erb, miller, of Preston.

The Third Ontario Legislature was elected in the early part of 1875. North Waterloo once more returned Mr. Springer, though opposed by Alexander Miller, Barrister, of Berlin, Conservative; while in the South Riding, John Fleming, a Galt merchant, was elected by acclamation as a supporter of the Mowat Government. During the third session of that Parliament, Mr. Fleming's seat was rendered vacant by his death, and the contest for the succession lay between Isaac Masters, a Liberal, farmer, of Wilmot, and Samuel Merner (now M.P.), of Hamburg, Independent, the former being elected by a narrow majority—five votes.

June 5th, 1879, was the date of the last general election to the Legislature of this Province. On that occasion Mr. Springer was for the fourth time returned for North Waterloo, defeating Ferdinand Walter, a merchant of Bamberg, Wellesley Township, the Conservative candidate. The seat for South Waterloo was filled by the election of James Livingston, flax manufacturer, of Baden, Liberal, who was opposed by John Finn, farmer, of Waterloo Township, Conservative.

During the current year Mr. Springer was appointed to the Shrieverly of this county, thus vacating his legislative seat for the North Riding. The "vacant chair" was soon after filled, however, by the election of E. W. B. Snider, merchant miller, of St. Jacobs, in opposition to Mr. Walter, above mentioned.

The Parliamentary representation of this county at present stands thus: House of Commons—North Waterloo, Hugo Kranz, merchant, Berlin, Conservative; South Waterloo, Samuel Merner, manufacturer, New Hamburg, Conservative. Ontario's six Members—North Waterloo, E. W. B. Snider, merchant miller, St. Jacobs, Liberal; South Waterloo, James Livingston, manufacturer, Baden, Liberal.

#### MUNICIPAL.

The history of municipal institutions in Canada covers a period of less than forty years, there having been no such form of government introduced into this country until the Union of the Provinces, which occurred in 1841. In the famous report of Lord Durham to the British Government, on the status of governmental affairs in Canada, he took occasion to remark that one reason why the Parliament of the day was so impotent in promoting the general welfare was that they wasted too much energy upon "parish affairs" and in conformity with the spirit of said report, the First Parliament of united Canada provided for the establishment of Municipal Councils in the respective Districts throughout Upper Canada, the Act taking effect January 1st, 1842.

The Districts referred to embraced, in most instances, several counties, and in each case as much territory as now comprises from one to three counties. The Wellington District was numbered among those then erected, and included, in addition to the present county of that name, that part of Waterloo County lying north of Dumfries, and the southern portion of the present County of Grey, extending from the southern border of Waterloo Township to the Georgian Bay. Guelph was made the seat of Government for the District named, and there the Council held its meetings during the continuance of that governmental system.

The Councils alluded to were composed of "District Councillors" so called, chosen from the different townships or unions thereof in proportion to their respective population, some townships sending two representatives to the Council, and in some instances half a dozen uniting to send one. The Councillors were elected for terms of two years at the "Town Meetings" of the period, whereas all the municipal business of the year was transacted. The Councils were presided over by a Warden, who was an appointee of the Crown; but in 1847 the appointed Wardens retired, and their places were filled by election from among the members of the respective Councils. The Clerks were also Crown appointees, but elected, in each case, from a list of three names submitted to Government by the Council.

During the continuance of the system of District Government, what is now Waterloo County remained part and parcel of the Wellington

District; and even after the abolition of Districts and the substitution of Counties therefor, together with a quite radical change in the composition and manner of electing the County Councils from that previously prevailing, this county was one among the united Counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey. In 1852, however, Waterloo was set aside "provisionally," i.e. as a "provisional" independent existence; the proviso being that it should erect the necessary County Buildings before becoming entitled to assume and exercise full corporate functions. During the period of provisional existence, the Reeves and Deputies of Waterloo County municipalities met in this county as a Provisional Council, to provide for the erection of the buildings referred to, etc., at the same time holding their places as members of the Council of the united counties.

The existence of Waterloo as a Provisional County dates from 1852, in which year its Provisional Council was thus composed: Waterloo Township, John Scott, M.D., Reeve; Henry Snyder, Deputy Reeve; Wellesley: John Hawk, Reeve; Gabriel Hawk, Deputy Reeve; Wilmot: John Ernest, Reeve; Anthony Kaiser, Deputy Reeve; Dumfries: Charles McGeorge, M.D., Reeve; Duncan Ferguson, Deputy Reeve; Woolwich: John Meyer, Reeve; Peter Winger, Deputy Reeve; Galt: Abalom Shade, Preston: Jacob Hespeler. The ballot for Warden resulted in the election of Dr. Scott; and the Clerkship was bestowed upon William Davidson. In 1854, having completed the Court House, Jail, &c., the county was finally severed from its alliance with the others named, and thenceforward has pursued a course of independent municipal government.

The list of Wardens from the date mentioned to the present has been as follows: 1853-4-5-6, John Scott, M.D., Reeve of Waterloo Township; 1857-8-9-60, Isaac Clemens, Reeve of Waterloo Township; 1861, Wendell Bowman, Reeve of Waterloo Township; 1862-3, Henry S. Huber, Reeve of Berlin; 1864, Thomas Chisholm, Reeve of North Dumfries; 1865, Henry D. Tye, Reeve of Wilmot; 1866, Dr. W. H. Vardon, Reeve of Wellesley; 1867, Ephraim Erb, Reeve of Waterloo Township; 1868, Charles Hendry, Reeve of Woolwich; 1869, John Fleming, Reeve of Galt; 1870, George Randall, Reeve of Waterloo Village; 1871, Abram A. Erb, Reeve of Preston; 1872, George Hespeler, Reeve of Hespeler; 1873, Samuel Merner, Reeve of New Hamburg; 1874, Abram Tyson, Reeve of Berlin; 1875, J. D. Moore, Reeve of North Dumfries; 1876, Christopher Zager, Reeve of Wilmot; 1877, Ferdinand Walter, Reeve of Wellesley; 1878, Henry McNally, Reeve of Waterloo Township; 1879, John B. Snyder, Reeve of Woolwich; 1880, Richard Jaffray, Reeve of Galt; 1881, William Snider, Reeve of Waterloo Town.

The Council for 1881 is composed as under—the first name mentioned in connection with a municipality being the Reeve, the second the first Deputy Reeve, and the third, if any, that of the second Deputy Reeve. Board of Aldermen: J. B. Jeffery, J. K. Umbach, J. C. Patterson, Hespeler, Lewis Kries, New Hamburg, Otto Preschick, North Dumfries, Theron Buchanan, Thomas C. Douglas, Waterloo Town, William Snider, Preston, W. C. Schleuter; Waterloo Township, Isaac Groh, Aaron Kraft, Tilman B. Snider; Wellesley, Ferdinand Walter, Valentine Otterbein, R. Y. Fish; Wilmot, Jas. Livingston, M.P.P., Joseph A. Laird, Henry Wahl; Woolwich, John B. Snyder, D. S. Snyder, J. K. Umbach.

#### TOWNSHIP OF WATERLOO.

EMBRACING THE TOWNS OF BERLIN AND WATERLOO, AND THE VILLAGES OF PRESTON AND HESPELER.

In point of superficial area, the original Township of Waterloo is one of the most extensive in Western Ontario, as it is also among the most advanced in respect of its fertility of soil, material development, and the wealth of its residents. It occupies an eastern central place on the map of the county, lying between the Townships of Woolwich and North Dumfries on the north and south respectively, Wilmot on the west, and Guelph and Puslinch in Wellington County on the east. Its territory is well watered by the Grand River, the Speed, and their various and considerable tributaries, the first-named of which traverses the township in a sinuous course throughout its entire extent from north to south, while the Speed enters its eastern border south of the center, flowing thence through Hespeler and Preston to a junction with the Grand River a distance below the latter place, and near the North Dumfries boundary.

The topography of Waterloo finds expression in a generally rolling plain, with varying degrees of undulation; the scene alternates between broad areas of substantially level surface and sharp ridges which in some instances assume the dignity of cliffs. The latter feature, however, is principally confined to the south-western portion of the township, where the soil is comparatively light and the timber principally pine, of which vast amounts have been cut hereabout. Another ridge of some prominence intercepts the view between Berlin and Waterloo, but a short distance further east subsides and gives place to an area of semi-swamp of considerable extent. The eastern and north-eastern portions of the township are of a generally excellent character for agricultural purposes, showing but few defects of surface, and none of them serious. The same may be said of the entire portion of the municipality traversed by the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway, where soil and surface combine to facilitate and reward the efforts of the husbandman. Nor does this fine feature relax as we approach the north-western frontier, while in the opposite south-east corner may be seen fine agricultural prospects as ever delighted the eye and enchained the admiration of the beholder. There are some approaches to roughness, however, in the land skirting the two rivers first named, whose banks vary greatly in height at different points, in some localities approaching what may be described as bluffs, while in others they rise but little above high water mark.

Waterloo was the earliest settled of any inland township of the western peninsula, the circumstances, immediate and remote, which led to that result being substantially as follows: Its pioneers belonged to a sect whose inception was witnessed in Germany early in the sixteenth century, and whose chief point of distinction from the Lutherans was a Quaker-like sentiment of objection to military service and abhorrence of warfare and military life, as well as to the taking of judicial oaths and the baptism of infants. The period named was not favorable for the development of creeds which in any manner clashed with what the magnates chose to consider the interests of the State; nor were the governments of continental Europe then constitutionally free in their liberty and tolerance towards any movement which threatened the efficiency of their military systems. The peculiar views above outlined of course invited and attracted the sneers of society, the persecutions of the bigoted, and the oppression of Government; but in spite of all counter influences, the sect gathered strength in the number and courage of its adherents, and extended its



scope with each succeeding year, until the movement had penetrated all the realms of Central Europe, and its devotees assumed or were accorded the names of *Mennonites*.

There was no abatement of either social or State persecution of the new sect, however; and ere the dawn of the seventeenth century it was determined by numbers of them to remove to a clime where a more perfect form of religious liberty might be expected to prevail. As the Puritan pilgrims quitted England for the wilderness beyond the Western main in hope of finding the 'liberty of conscience which was denied them at home, so, following their example, came the vanguard of the *Mennonites* to the New World, and settled in the colony where they found a people professing almost similar sentiments, in the persons of the revered William Penn and his fellow Quakers, or Friends.

The first settlement of this class in America was formed in the year 1700, in the vicinity of Germantown, Pa.; and during the following score of years the movement of *Mennonites* from Germany, the Low Countries and Switzerland, to Pennsylvania, swelled to extensive proportions, and resulted in populating large sections of Berks, Bucks, Lancaster and Montgomery Counties in the State named, almost, if not exclusively, by the class of whom we write. Their descendants have since come to be known, from one end of this continent to the other, as the "Pennsylvania Dutch"—a term applied as a distinction rather than one of disparagement, as is by some people erroneously supposed; and henceforth, let it be understood, the reference in these pages to the Pennsylvania Dutch is to be construed as alluding to their origin merely. These people branched out over the adjoining counties, and even colonies, states and territories, as the population of their first adopted localities became too dense for further agricultural settlement, still retaining, however, their peculiar theories as stated above, and maintaining a considerable degree of exclusiveness from other society. The outbreak of the American Revolution, however, marked the development of some social and political in their sentiments respecting a participation in warfare, as well as a lack of harmony among themselves as to which side of that controversy was most deserving of support. While some of the American-born representatives of the sect subordinated their horror of war to their hatred of British oppression, and shouldered the flintlock for the defence of colonial honor and freedom, others, actuated no doubt by sincere opinions of the right, enlisted in the support of foreign tyranny, which undoubtedly their crude judgment clothed in the garb of virtuous authority.

That struggle was probably the indirect cause of the migration to Canada of the first representatives of the class of which we now write. In 1798 the pioneers of the movement crossed the border, and settled, some near Niagara, and others along Yonge Street, back of Toronto; but the first to penetrate the wilds of Waterloo County left Pennsylvania in the year following. The vanguard of the movement hither was formed by Joseph Sherk and Samuel Betzner, from Franklin County of that State, whose preference for British institutions is credited with having inspired their design, though they had not borne arms in the recent hostilities. Being in moderate circumstances, they could not afford the expense of a preliminary prospecting tour, so they brought their families with them at the time. Arrived on this side of the border, the former spent the following winter in the vicinity of the Falls, while the latter sojourned in the locality of where Ancaster now stands. Being dissatisfied with those sections as permanent places of location, they pressed onward about thirty miles beyond the then limit of civilization, their particular impulse being a desire to discover and locate upon the bank of a fine river of which they had heard as traversing this region.

No white settlers had as yet penetrated the depths of these forests, but a few "Yankee" traders in furs had established themselves in temporary quarters at intervals throughout that part of the wilderness bordering on civilization; and of these, three, of the names respectively of Dodge, Preston and Woodward, sold forth along the Grand River within the present County of Waterloo. The two last named left this locality upon the approach of the pioneer, but Dodge remained and became a permanent and prominent landmark of the community, and was noted for his eccentricities of character and sentiment. It is explained that the word "Yankee," as above applied, was in those days used as a distinguishing term between the English-speaking people and the whites of the country, who still they were calling—to their mother tongue, though a century had elapsed since the settlement of their ancestors in America.

About the time of the advent of Sherk and Betzner, two other "Yankees," named respectively Ward and Smith, were engaged in "blazing," the way for a road which Government contemplated building from Dundas toward where Waterloo now stands.

Having satisfied themselves from a thorough examination of soil, surface, timber, etc., of the eligibility of this section (along the Grand River) as the scene of future agricultural operations, Messrs. Sherk and Betzner returned to the Niagara frontier, determined to remove hither with their families the following spring, and definitely locate in the woods. The township had already been granted by its original grantees, the Six Nation Indians, to Richard Beasley and two others, who had placed a mortgage upon it. But this latter fact remained unknown for some years thereafter, in so far as concerned the pioneers. Sherk and Betzner purchased directly of Beasley, paying his price, and suffering the consequences of his dishonesty later, as the sequel will show. Sherk exchanged his horse for the land so purchased, but still had means left to purchase a yoke of oxen and a sled, by which means he transported his family to Waterloo in the early spring of 1800, and located the farm on the river bank, directly opposite Doon of the present; while Betzner took up what has since been known as the B. B. Bowman farm, adjoining the village of Blair.

Later in the spring of the same year, the second contingent of settlers from Pennsylvania arrived in Waterloo, consisting of Samuel Betzner, Sr., and Christian and John Reichart, who came in fairly equipped for the battle with the forest, among the possessions of each being included a four-horse team and "emigrant" wagon, containing such utensils as could be most conveniently carried and utilized in their new home. The parties named came from Lancaster County, at a time when no white settlement had been formed where Buffalo now stands; the site of Hamilton was an impassable swamp; and the only "symptom" of a village where is now Dundas, consisted of a small mill and smaller store, owned by a Mr. Hatt. They left their families at "the mountain," back of Hamilton, where a settlement had already begun, while they personally came forward to prospect, making preparations to move in the autumn following. Betzner, Sr., located beside Sherk, opposite Doon; and the Reicharts further up the stream, at what is now called Prepost, but which locality was for many years afterwards referred to as the "Toll Bridge," the origin of which appellation is obvious.

Several parties from Montgomery County, Pa., came to the town-

ship in 1801, among whom were George, John and Abram Bechtel, Dilman Klosey, Benjamin Rosenburger, John Bean and his father's family, and George Clemmens. Most of those named had families, but Clemmens was at that date unmarried. He afterwards earned great prominence and popularity in the community by his creditable participation in public affairs, and lived up to within the recollection of many now in early manhood. The "wagon train" by which the party alluded to reached this township was drawn by nine four-horse teams, while a considerable herd of cattle was driven by members of the party. And thus they made the slow and wearisome ascent of the Alleghenies, and, after ten weeks of "life on the road," they reached the goal toward which they had so perseveringly pressed. Of the party named, Bechtel settled a short distance west of Blair; Rosenburger a little above Preston; Klosey just west of Doon; and George Clemmens, to whom is accorded the distinction of having driven the first team through the Beverley swamp, about a mile east of Preston. On the homesteads so located have their respective descendants remained up to the present, with one or two exceptions.

The pioneers of Waterloo were generally well-to-do, and brought with them to their new homes not only sufficient money to pay for their land but also to leave, in many instances, a neat surplus, and a goodly list of such easily transported implements as are peculiarly adapted to service in the woods. While thus placed above the reach of want (in which respect they were much more favored than the pioneers of most other Canadian townships) they had still to grapple with the manifold hardships and inconveniences of bush life, from which even gold would not purchase their exemption. The nearest mill, for some years, was where Dundas now stands, to reach which it was necessary to traverse almost impassable swamps during the greater number of the twenty-five intervening miles; and at the same distant point was located the only apology for a store to which they had access.

The summer of 1802 witnessed the arrival of reinforcements from beyond the Alleghenies, among whom were the Saratus, Shupe, Livergood, Wisner, Ringler, and Cornell families, and Joseph Bechtel, who subsequently became the first to preach the Mennonite creed in the new settlement. Also included among the arrivals of that year were John and Samuel Bricker, the last-named of whom became the leading spirit, somewhat later, in the formation of the Dutch Company, to which reference will anon be made. It is worthy of note in this place (while considering the acquisitions to the material status of Waterloo during 1802), that in that year the first school-house in the community was built—it being also the first, so far as the knowledge of the writer extends, in any inland county of the Province—and in the edifice alluded to one Rittenhaus was the first to teach.

With the influx of the Pennsylvania Dutch in such large numbers, what few Yankee hunters and squatters had located along the Grand River disposed of or abandoned their interests and removed, with one or two prominent exceptions. The result of persevering toil began meanwhile to be displayed in the expanding limits of the clearings surrounding the cabins of the settlers; and soon the original habitations themselves began to be demolished and better ones erected in their stead. All these parties had purchased their farms from Richard Beasley, supposing, of course, they were receiving a good title to the property for which they had paid. They were soon undeceived on that point, however, by one of their number, Samuel Bricker, having accidentally heard the *status* of the land deal discussed by a couple of strangers in Little York. Reporting the conversation in the settlement, Jacob Bechtel and Samuel Betzner were appointed to investigate the rumor at Government headquarters, where they learned that Beasley shared the grant (94,012 acres), including their homes, in common with James Wilson and John B. Roseant, and that a joint mortgage from them had been recorded against the tract. This information spread consternation among the pioneers, who had expended their all, in most cases, in the improvement of their Canadian homes, and were now apparently placed in a position of dependence upon the generosity of tricksters, who might, by a nominal transfer of the land to the mortgagee, reduce the Pennsylvanians to the position of tenants at sufferance.

The fraud of Beasley having become known, paralyzed all further development, to at least the extent of preventing further immigration. To this bad result, however, there had been a good effect, in kindling his apprehension lest he should be unable to secure further sums from his grant, and elicited overtures for the sale of the block entire to the settlers or their friends, and a proposition that they should form a company of Pennsylvanians to effect the purchase—offering as an inducement five hundred acres of land to him who should organize such company. The pioneers decided to send Joseph Bricker and Joseph Sherk back to Pennsylvania, to make an effort toward that end; and so, in the summer of 1804, the two men named started for their former distant homes on horseback to prosecute the design alluded to. Arrived in Cumberland Co., Pa., their proposals were so coldly received that Sherk started back to Canada in despair, leaving Bricker to succeed or fail alone thereafter. The latter was fortunately "made of sterner stuff," and so far from allowing one rebuff to dishearten him, gathered fresh zest from the circumstances which discouraged his colleague. Proceeding to Lancaster County, he outlined his scheme to John Eby (brother of the Rev. Benjamin Eby), who then occupied a position of influence in the county named. At a meeting held later at his house it was finally arranged to organize a company for the purpose named, whose stock might consist of eight shares, each of value not less than the maximum and one-eighth of a share the minimum, which any member could possess. All the stock was at once subscribed, and Bricker was appointed agent of the new organization, with one-half a share as his compensation during such period as the Company should claim his services in that connection. Daniel Erb was appointed Bricker's assistant, and, with \$20,000 in their possession, they started for Waterloo soon after. Through Erb's unsophisticated "verdancy," the intentions of the company reached Beasley's ears, who then assumed an attitude of indifference (?) to the overtures of the agents, and thereby succeeded in winning from the company a higher price than he had previously asked or ever expected.

The price finally agreed upon was \$20,000 for a tract of 60,000 acres; and after some more narrow escapes from a disaster through the treachery and dishonesty of Beasley, the deal was formally executed in March, 1805. The grant was made to Daniel and Jacob Erb, for the Company, the latter having taken the place of Bricker, who was allowed to retire. The company so formed has ever since been referred to as the "Dutch Company," whose new possessions were then located in "the County of York, and Home District." In 1804 Michael Grob, grandfather of the present Reeve of the township, selected a location near where Preston now stands, and returned to Pennsylvania for his family. On the way back to

Canada, the same year, he died; but his family, including his son John, then seventeen years old, continued their journey, and finally possessed the farm which their father had located.

Upon the completion of the deed between Beasley and the Dutch Company, a new impetus was given to the settlement of Waterloo by the redirection hither of the current of Pennsylvanian immigration, which had been temporarily suspended during the prevalence of the uncertainties attending the status of affairs previously existing. The incoming settlers had farms assigned them without the slightest regard to uniformity of geographical outline; and ere long the possibility of laying out highways at right angles and uniform distances from each other, without invading very seriously the rights of numerous owners, entirely vanished. An apology for a survey of the tract was, however, effected, and areas of almost every variety of size and shape were laid out under the name of lots, which were duly numbered; but a glance at the map of the township will show that in some cases these "lots" are situated partially on one side of the township and partially on the opposite side. A system of the most regular irregularity was observed not only in the laying out of the lots but the location of the highways, thus necessitating the aid of a map or an animated guide by strangers making a tour of the township.

The influx of locusts during the year 1806 was much more considerable than in any previous year, if not more numerous than the aggregate of all preceding ones, included among them being the Erb, Stauffer, Carrell, Knaf, Hammacher, Schneider, Eby and Bowman families. The previous year, John Erb, Abram Stauffer (above alluded to), and one Weber, had come hither on horseback from Lancaster, Pa. Arriving near the site of Galt, they came upon an Indian camp, where some of the Six Nations were indulging in a frolic, a "brave" named "Old Jack" being first in authority. The latter worthily accused the travellers of the crime of being "Yankoes," and threatened to shoot them unless they should forthwith make themselves "scarce" thereabout. Finding they could avail nothing by denial and parley, and noting "Lo's" intent to execute his threat, the young men "stood not upon the order of their going, but went at once," though ere they passed beyond range a bullet from "Old Jack's" rifle took effect in Stauffer's arm; but the wound soon healed under the care received at the home of John Bricker.

Some of this year's arrivals became leading actors in the drama of subsequent events in the community, and maintained a high degree of prominence for many years thereafter—notably the Erb, Eby and Bowman families and their descendants, who will be more minutely referred to in connection with those portions of the township where their influence was most active. In 1806 there came in from Franklin County another contingent of Pennsylvanians, among whom were the Cress, Brech and Schneider families. The latter family have since become very numerous throughout the entire northern part of the county, though the later generations have altered the orthography of the name to "Snyder" and "Snider," the silent, idiomatic German letters having been sacrificed to common sense. Jacob Snyder, who arrived in that year, became the pioneer of what has since been known as the "Snyder Corner" of the township. The same year witnessed a visitation of a serious calamity to the little community along the Grand River, in the form of a forest fire, originating in the "slash" areas of some of the settlers, and which destroyed their houses and barns, and left destitute a considerable number of those mentioned as having settled along that stream. With characteristic courage and industry, however, they soon reversed the tide of fortune, and from the ashes of their humble homes sprang others of a better type and more commodious proportions.

From this time onward each season contributed numerous residents to this township, the settlement of which, in the locality of the Grand River and the Speed, had now become quite general. In 1807 Peter Erb settled on the right bank of the former stream, a mile above Bridgeport of the present—the first settler to penetrate so far north along that stream. Several representatives of the Shantz family came in during 1809, and the following year witnessed the settlement, near Hespeler, of William Ellis, an Irishman, who had resided in Pennsylvania some years. He was, later, a pioneer magistrate of that locality, a colleague in the same section being John Erb, of Preston; but the harmony prevailing among the residents during that early period rendered the office rather a sinecure.

During the Anglo-American War of 1812-15 there was a suspension of immigration to this region; but the impulse revived upon the adjustment of the differences which caused the hostilities in question, and again the succeeding seasons witnessed the acquisition by this township of new settlers, the expansion of the clearings of those whose locations were of earlier date, and an onward march toward the goal of material comfort and prosperity on the part of all. This march of material events was somewhat impeded, however, by the elements of 1816, which is remembered by old men in Canada as having been "the year without a summer;" during which no vegetation reached perfection, and birds were (in some parts of Canada) frozen to death upon their perches; frosts of varying severity occurred during each week, and of course paralyzed for the time being agriculture and its dependent branches of trade. The reaction from this abnormal status was prompt and decisive, recouping the husbandman for the loss and privations entailed by the freaks of Nature during the year referred to.

By this time the settlement was nearly two decades in age, and had reached a stage beyond which it would scarce be interesting to note the individual arrivals of subsequent locaters. By that date, also, the foundation of some of the trade centres which dot the township to-day was laid in the soil of their respective pioneers, and we now pass to a consideration of the more salient features in the development of some of the principal among the commercial centres which have arisen within the confines of the township. The first of these to claim our attention is the

#### TOWN OF WATERLOO.

within whose borders as at present constituted the first settlement was made in 1806. The pioneer of the town was Abraham Erb, one of a party of forty-eight who came from Franklin County, Pa., in the year named, to the Canadian El Dorado. Mr. Erb purchased a tract of nine hundred acres, embracing the entire site of the present town. Upon halting on the bank of the small stream which meanders through the place, a man employed by him as a teamster celebrated the arrival at the goal of their immediate hopes by planting in the ground a small poplar branch which he had used as a whip during the entire journey from Pennsylvania, and, to the surprise of every one, it sprouted, grew and developed into a majestic tree, which still spreads its branches to the breeze in rear of the flouring mill; and, after having survived the storms of more than three-quarters of a century, still constitutes a landmark in the locality, and a leafy

monument of the first innovation upon Nature's handiwork in the embellishment of neighboring scenes.

Mr. Erb, like a majority of the pioneers of this section, had come well supplied with the "sinews of war" with which to wage battle with the "Genius of the Wilderness," and a portion of his store was at once expended in substantial and important improvements upon his newly acquired grant. The first of these in which the public were interested was a saw mill, which was put in operation soon after, though not until John Erb had already set a similar institution running where Preston now stands. The progress of commerce was not rapid at the place and date of which we write, and not until 1816 was there a grist mill erected on the bank of the stream in what is now the heart of the town. This establishment was also built by Abraham Erb, is still standing, and forms a portion of the extensive mill now contributing to the "hum of industry" in Waterloo.

The early residents of this township were an essentially agricultural class, and not readily attracted into commercial and manufacturing enterprises, though it must be conceded the demand for such branches of trade was not extensive during the first two decades of the century. Owing in part to the fact above suggested, and partially, no doubt, to so large a tract heretofore being under one individual ownership, the progress of this place towards commercial consequence was exceedingly moderate for many years; in fact, to the lack of enterprise displayed by the owner of the land heretofore, was due the inception of a village on the site of Berlin, as will appear in connection with our remarks upon that town. That the advancement of the village was very gradual is evinced by the following extract from Smith's "Canada," published in 1851: "The Village of Waterloo is settled almost exclusively by Germans, and contains a population of about two hundred and fifty, a grist mill with four runs of stones, saw mill, brewery and distillery. There are also a Post Office and two churches, German Lutheran, and Methodist."

In 1857, however, a considerable advance was perceptible, and the village was in that year incorporated by Special Act 12 Vic., cap. 81. The Council elected to assume governmental control was composed of Messrs. Daniel Snyder, Hartman Schivam, John Hoffman, Jacob Fenscher and Moses Springer, the latter of whom was elected Reeve, and William Roberts, appointed Village Clerk. The succession in the civic chair thence to the present has been as follows: 1858-61, Moses Springer; 1862, Daniel Snyder; 1863-6, John Hoffman; 1867-9, Moses Springer; 1870-72, George Randall; 1873-5, Moses Springer. In 1876 the village was promoted to the rank of a town, when Moses Springer was elected Mayor, and was re-elected in 1877; George Randall held the gavel in 1878; Christian Kumpf in 1879 and 1880; while for the present year, the municipal slate bears the following names: Mayor, Benjamin De Witt; Reeve, William Snider; Councilors—West Ward, Andrew Rockel, Jacob S. Rose, J. Kalbfleisch; South Ward, Levi Greybill, J. E. Seagram, Abalom Merner; East Ward, George Moore, Adam Clifford, Theo. Bellinger; North Ward, John Koller, Jacob Conrad, Jno. W. Schneider. The duties of the Clerkship have been discharged by F. W. Colquhoun since 1868.

The present material status of Waterloo may be thus briefly summarized: It contains a population slightly in excess of two thousand, with such trade establishments as usually grace a town of that size; its architectural appearance is fully up to the average Canadian town, displaying several really superior buildings, especially the Town Hall and School Buildings. Some extensive manufacturing establishments flourish, including a woollen mill of much local consequence and wide reputation; and the general appearance of the town denotes a degree of prosperity and comfort among its residents highly creditable to their industry and prudence. The Grand Trunk Railway furnishes shipping facilities by a branch running hither from the main line at Berlin, two miles distant, with the corporate limits of which town those of Waterloo unite about midway between their respective centres.

#### BERLIN.

The County Town of Waterloo County, is indifferently located near the centre of Waterloo Township, on the main line of the G. T. R., 67 miles west of Toronto. Having no water power, it has of course missed the advantages springing from manufactures thus propelled, though its destitution in that respect has by no means left the town without factories. In fact, there are few if any towns of its size in the Province that can boast a more extended list of manufacturing establishments propelled by steam than can the one of which we write, its attractions in that line including flouring mills, four large and extensive butter factories, the only Canadian manufactory of the celebrated felt and leather boots and shoes, toy and "notion" factory, and others of lesser individual importance, but consequential in the aggregate.

The site of the business portion of Berlin was originally a formidable swamp, though the land rises toward the east and provides a most pleasant site for a Court House, a number of the churches, and many of the private residences of the town.

The first settlement upon its site was made in 1807, when Benjamin Eby located what was long known as the Eby farm, just to the east of the business portion; and at the same time Joseph Schneider took up another part of the town site. These parties had come from Lancaster County, Penn., the same year, in company with numerous contingents of others, who settled in the township adjacent to the Grand River.

As late as 1816 the swamp was the only "landmark" where the coming of trains and traffic now is; and in 1820 the only feature of relief in the landscape was a small blacksmith shop standing at the present junction of King and Queen Streets. In 1823, however, the foundation of the town may be said to have been laid, the circumstances attending its inception being about as follows: John Hoffman formed a partnership with Samuel Bowers, to manufacture furniture and do joining work in its general branches. Hoffman was then a young man, just out of his apprenticeship, and in company with Bowers contemplated embarking in a business of such extent as their combined efforts could maintain, aided by the very crude machinery of the time. He intended that David Miller was also about to open a store at some point north of Preston, and all the parties named began a concerted search for an eligible site on reasonable terms. They made overtures to the property owners at the Toll Bridge (now Freeport), Bridgeport, and Waterloo, but at each place received the same reply, that said owners did not care to have their plots "cut up" or "disfigured" by carving out lots on which to open either stores or factories. At length Ben Eby consented to part with a portion of his farm, which was considered too swampy for agriculture, and the offer being accepted, the enterprising young men laid the foundation of what has since grown to be one of the most progressive towns on the line of the Grand Trunk Railroad.

The connection of Mr. Hoffman with the material interests of Berlin continued till 1857, when he removed to Waterloo. During his residence here he is said to have constructed not less than fifty houses to the building up of the village. His brother Jacob was admitted to a partnership in his furniture business some time after its establishment (Bowers having retired), and by this firm was the first steam engine introduced into the county, as 'tis said. Associated with David Miller in the proprietorship of the first mercantile establishment in town, were his brothers William and Frederick, but they removed to New Dundee some time later, and for a long period were the most prominent business men in the southern part of Wilmet.

In 1837 the second store in town was opened by Henry B. Bowman, father of the present County Clerk, in company with John Hoffman, who subsequently retired from the business, which was continued by Mr. Bowman up to 1858. When the Messrs. Miller removed to New Dundee their Berlin premises were occupied by John A. Mackie, who held a long and prominent connection with the business interests of the place.

There was no "rush" growth in the history of Berlin, but, on the contrary, its progress up to the time of locating the county seat here had been of a most moderate order. The public interest in the place was pretty thoroughly awakened by the fierce contest which ensued upon attempting to solve the problem, "Where shall the county seat be located?" the aspirations of Galt and Waterloo having been most emphatically advocated, but without success. Berlin took a somewhat briskeer course after the favorable termination of that contest; but not until the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway through its limits, about a score of years ago, did the spirit of progress display itself in its true energy heretofore, from which date the advancement of Berlin in all material respects has been steady and satisfactory, if not immediately rapid, until today it occupies a place among the most substantial and progressive towns in Ontario, containing a population of about 5,000 souls.

#### PRESTON.

is located on either side of the River Speed, about a mile above its confluence with Grand River. The general aspect of the village is not indicative of much energy or enterprise, but although it has been, with considerable regard for accuracy, described as "a sleepy old German village," it is the seat of much financial solidity, that finds little or no expression in commercial activity.

Preston is distant eight miles from Berlin, and four from Galt. It is traversed by the Wellington, Grey and Bruce branch of the Great Western Railway, and enjoys all the facilities incident thereto, as well as those attendant upon express and telegraph advantages. The principal part of the village is strung along one street, running from the river toward Galt, though in the vicinity of the Speed there are some factories of considerable magnitude, and a number of mercantile establishments.

John Erb was the pioneer of Preston, having settled upon its site in 1806, though a short distance to the east of the village there was a settlement effected in 1801 by Abraham and David Gingersich, father and son, who came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in that year, with a considerable train of wagons, their families, farm stock and implements. Mr. Erb settled on Lot 4, down stream between the present village and the Grand River, though his original purchase included the major part of the village site. Down Main Street, toward the Dunfries border, one Nutzer had settled somewhat in advance of Erb, and the lower part of the present village was included in his grant. Mr. Erb commenced energetic operations without delay, and the fall succeeding his arrival laid a saw mill in running order at the west end of the village, the portion which in the early days went by the name of Cambridge, and within a short time after gristing facilities were added. As early as the close of the Anglo-American War also, there was an unpretentious store, operated by a widow named Lesser, which crowned the ridge just north of the mill referred to. With that one exception, there was no mercantile establishment short of Dundas, which was likewise the nearest post office, and for many years the limited quantities of mail matter for all the northern settlers would be brought out by any one who might chance to be in Dundas from this township. The arrival of a letter in the community was then a great rarity, and created general local interest.

Among the earliest arrivals in the vicinity of Preston after its foundation were the Erb Brothers, Abraham and Jacob, and a number of the Sniders. One of the last named family, Daniel by name, was associated with his father-in-law, John Erb, in the proprietorship of the second store opened north of Dunfries, which was established at Cambridge about 1818. It stood in what is now the door yard of Joseph Erb's residence. The surrounding territory began to show signs of greater development by this time, the population becoming more dense and the clearings more extended. Of the arrivals of that period whose posterity have taken a popular place in the community, none better deserve mention than Isaac Masters, who located near this place in 1819. With the increased demand for trade facilities and mechanical products, an impulse was given to the growth of Cambridge (Preston being a name of later bestowal), and by the time the foundation of Berlin was laid a considerable village graced the banks of the Speed at this point; and for a long period thereafter, and indeed until a comparatively recent date, it continued to hold the lead over both Berlin and Waterloo. Among its most prominent and enterprising business men were the Ferrie Brothers—Adam, Robert, and John—who carried on an extensive store here forty years ago; but after building the large mills at Doon, they removed thither their mercantile business, and thus became the predestined founders of that village, whose present status suggests a departed glory far in excess of what it now enjoys.

Another resident of prominence in the village forty years ago was an English gentleman named Scollick, a surveyor and conveyancer by occupation, to whom Preston is indebted for its euphonious name. He came from Preston, England, a resemblance to which is formed by the long street of this village, almost its entire attractions being displayed along the same, hence the name, borrowed from the "long, thin, town" of Lancashire. Not second in prominence or usefulness to the village was Jacob Hespeler, who carried on extensive business connections here for a number of years both prior and subsequent to his establishing the nucleus of the village which now bears his name, in 1845.

In 1850 Preston was thus referred to in Smith's "Canada," "There are two grist mills in the village, the 'Cambridge Mills' and 'Anchor Mills'; two saw mills, two vinegar factories, a woollen factory, foundry, chair factory, two distilleries, two tanneries, starch factory, pottery and three breweries. An agricultural paper, *Canadische Bauernfreund*, or Canadian Farmers' Friend, is published in

Preston. There are three schools established on the free system, a Court House and Town Hall, and two churches—one free to all denominations and one Roman Catholic. A daily stage runs to Godschalk and Woolwich, and two stages daily between Guelph and Hamilton, passing through Preston. There is also a fire company, with an engine, &c. Preston is pleasantly situated on a gravelly soil at the termination of the Dundas and Waterloo unscenic road. A large number of the houses are built in the old-fashioned German style.

Preston was incorporated as a village in 1852, at which date its material attributes are doubtless outnumbered those of the present, among the principal of which may be mentioned a population of about 1,600; furniture, stove, implement, wooden, and boot and shoe factories, rather extensive flouring mill, and the usual array of shops and stores. Among its intellectual advantages are a public school, employing five teachers; several fine churches; Lodges of A. F. & A. M. and L. O. G. T., the latter of which owns a very neat, commodious and creditable hall; a Mechanics' Institute with large library, and several musical societies of more than local reputation. A sulphur spring, on the north bank of the Speed, annually attracts considerable numbers of visitors to the village, who are entertained at a large hotel built specially for that class of guests.

#### HESPELER.

is quite eligibly located, partially on each bank of the Speed, but principally on the east, about three miles above Preston, and quite near the eastern border of this township. The farm on the south or east side of the stream, on which most of the village stands, was originally settled by Michael Berygy, a Pennsylvanian, while the opposite side was owned by Abraham G. Clements. Berygy was the first to introduce manufacturing apparatus into the place, by building a saw mill and small foundry slightly above the heart of the present village, where a small stream enters the Speed, and this establishment he continued to operate a number of years. He later built a second mill, on the site now occupied by the Hespeler grist mill; but this he sold to Mr. Clements above-mentioned, whose connection with the early business interests of the place led to his being considered the founder of the village.

Just below where Forbes' factory now stands, another mill was built about 1840, or soon thereafter, by Cornelius Panshaker and Joseph Oberholtzer, the last named of whom soon after erected another on the site of said factory, in connection with which he operated a foundry of small capacity. This village formerly passed by the name of New Hope, which clung to it until later than 1850. The name it now bears was bestowed out of compliment to a gentleman whose active enterprise contributed more toward the material welfare of the village than that of any other citizen the place ever possessed.

Jacob Hespeler, the gentleman in question, was a native of Baden-Baden, Germany, who came to Canada in his youth. Pushing on to the then uncivilized North-West, he was for some years engaged in the fur trade, in the employ of John Jacob Astor and the Hudson Bay Company successively. Returning to civilization, he engaged extensively in mercantile and manufacturing business in Preston, but in 1845 secured business interests in New Hope, which he subsequently highly developed. Leaving his business in Hespeler (which name had meanwhile been assumed by the village) to the care of his sons, he went to the Pacific Slope, nearly a score of years since, and for several years engaged in the conducting of a cattle ranch, but returned to the village bearing in his name, where he resumed business in the mill of his former building, in the proprietorship of which enterprise he died, March 5th, 1881. He had taken a most active and energetic part in all the public concerns of his youthful and middle age, and was ever among the first, if not the leader, in schemes of local or general benefit.

The connection of Mr. Hespeler with this village dated from 1845, when he purchased the Clements' saw mill. In 1847 he tore down that structure and built upon the site the grist and flouring mill which still stands there, to which concern he added a saw mill and a distillery, and later a large woollen mill—the first in Hespeler. Prior to 1845, Adam Read and John Gingersich had each kept a small store here, and in the year named Adam Shaw opened a quite pretentious mart on the corner of the two principal streets, continuing in trade during a long period, and still retaining a residence and interest in the village. Mr. Hespeler soon after built another store; the factories attracted artisans, mechanics established themselves here, and the prosperity of Hespeler became an assured fact. Since then, the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railroad has brought first-class travelling, shipping and mail facilities to the doors of the villagers; and the extension and increase of manufactures (among which are now numbered woollen and cotton mills of great capacity and importance) have furnished profitable employment for a large share of its greatly augmented population; and the establishment of mercantile and mechanical institutions in greater number and variety has flanked its principal street with the seats of trade and industry. Hespeler has enjoyed municipal existence since 1858, possesses a population of about 1,000, a location in the midst of a very pleasant and picturesque locality, and a degree of general attractiveness which renders it one of the pleasantest villages in this part of Ontario.

BLAIR, on the Grand River, about three miles west of Preston, has been the most important of the incorporated villages in the township, though its glory has waned of late years, under the influence of competition from Galt, Preston and Berlin. The village population of this place is probably less than in 1850, when it was placed at 140, while its other attributes were two flouring mills, saw mill, tannery and some stores. Though the Galt and Berlin branch of the Grand Trunk Railway now runs through the place, its commercial importance is not of a high order. Blair, thirty years ago, was known as New Carlisle, or Durhamville, from the fact of the mills there located having been named the "Carlisle" and "Durham" Mills respectively.

BLOOMINGDALE contains some 200 inhabitants, and is situated near the northern border of this township, a short distance east of the Grand River. There could be no finer stretch of agricultural land than that surrounding Bloomingdale, where the trade of a considerable area centres, imparting sustenance to a population of 200 or thereabout.

BRESLAU is a place of some considerable commercial capacity, located where the main line of the G. T. R. crosses one of the principal highways of the eastern part of the township. The village contains a grist mill, several stores and mechanics' shops, and a population of about 120.

BRIDGEPORT is quite picturesquely situated on either bank of the Grand River, where it flows through a considerable gorge, with rocky bed and walls, from the crevices of which have sprung fringes of



knarled but majestic trees and shrubs, whose foliage or shade lend a decidedly attractive feature to the scene. That portion of the river on the west side of the river was founded by Jacob S. Shoemaker, who came hither from Pennsylvania in 1820, and built the mills at that point, which are driven by water power furnished from a fine pond restrained a short distance from the river, into which the discharge empties. It was from the circumstance alluded to that this part of the little town was so long known and referred to as Shoemaker's Mills, though why the two further names of "Glasgow" and "Lancaster" should have been bestowed is not now clear. The eastern part of the village was called Bridgeport from the first, and under that pleasant name the entire "town" is now content to pass. The population of the place is about 250, while mills, furniture factory, a number of stores, shops, &c., form the other adjuncts.

CENTREVILLE needs no explanation of its name. It is the seat of government for the township, where has been erected a very neat and attractive frame Town Hall, in addition to which, a blacksmith shop and the contiguous residences of farmers form all there is of the "Capitol."

DOON, or DOON MILLS, as the place was formerly called, is likewise located on the bank of the Grand River and the Galt branch of the Grand Trunk Railway. This village was founded by the Perrie Brothers about forty years ago, when they built very extensive mills—saw, grist, barley, &c.; and a distillery was also operated, an institution of that kind having been a supposed essential requisite in every village in the time of which we write. The place now presents a rather dilapidated appearance, both architecturally and commercially.

FREEPORT is a hamlet of about 100 inhabitants, on the east bank of Grand River, where the Galt and Berlin highway crosses that stream. In the early history of the township, this was the most important point within its borders, owing principally to the existence of the bridge, the collection of tolls upon which give this village the name of The Toll Bridge.

FRIEBURG is a small hamlet near the north-eastern corner of the township, where the residents retain the characteristics of their German nationality to a degree scarce met with elsewhere in the township. The village is by no means an important one, containing only such concerns of trade and industry as may be usually found in a place of 100 inhabitants.

GERMAN MILLS is the name given to a hamlet on the Galt branch of the G.T.R., which is constituted in chief by the "Mills" in question, an illustration of which appears on another page of this volume.

KOSUTH, in the east centre of the township, is in the midst of a strictly German settlement many of the residents holding the Catholic faith. The village does not exceed 200 of a population, with the ordinary attributes and appendages.

STANBURG is the name of a rural village toward the south-west corner of the township, which has seen more prosperous days, if present appearances are reliable as evidence of a past condition. The status of the place is not inviting. It is situated beneath a ridge of considerable height, on a sandy area, and contains probably 100 inhabitants, with the usual concomitants.

## GALT AND NORTH DUMFRIES.

The original township of Dumfries, now divided into the north and south townships of that name, was principally included within the grant bestowed upon the Six Nation Indians by the British Government at the close of the American Revolution, the circumstances of which are more at length referred to on a previous page. The adaptability of these Grand River lands to agricultural purposes soon attracted the attention of speculators, by whom most of the extensive grant to the tribes alluded to was purchased during the last century. That portion of the grant now encompassed by the two townships of North and South Dumfries (94,305 acres) was conveyed in 1798 by Joseph Brant, on behalf of his Indian protégés, to Philip Stedman of the Niagara District, for the consideration of \$2,841.

Mr. Stedman made no practical effort to place this land upon the market apparently, nor indeed could any such endeavor have proved availing at that date, when the only immigration to the Province was of U. E. Loyalists or other Americans, who received free grants of such generous extent as to preclude the demand for purchased lands so remote from the then bounds of civilization as those of Dumfries. Their purchaser soon died intestate, and for want of heirs in the direct line, his estate descended to his sister, Mrs. John Sparkman, also of the Niagara District. In 1811 Mrs. Sparkman and husband conveyed the land in question to Hon. Thomas Clarke, of Stamford, Lincoln County, by whom it was later conveyed to Hon. William Dickson.

It would appear that no part of the purchase price of these lands had been paid to the Indians up to the time of the Sparkman-Clarke transfer, which doubtless furnished the justification of Brant's having again sold a part of them, including the present site of Galt, to Alexander Miller, of the Niagara District, of whom it is said that he secured a grant of one thousand acres in the locality named, in exchange for a fine team of horses which he had brought from Pennsylvania. The precise facts connected with that period of Galt's history have been found very difficult to determine, not only by the present writer, but by others who have preceded him in the composition of historical data concerning this town. It is believed, however, that the following version of the facts is substantially correct.

Miller made the purchase in 1802 (probably in ignorance of the conveyance to Stedman, who paid him nothing on the property), and proceeded with the construction of a mill on the east side of the river, slightly above the business portion of the present town. For the task of building the mill, Miller engaged the party referred to on a previous page as "Old Dodge," who was a squatter in the present Township of Waterloo when the pioneers came in, and a millwright by trade. After its completion in crude and rough style, one Maas was engaged as miller, and the business of gristing appears to have been carried on for some considerable time. Afterwards Miller returned to the United States and took part in the War of 1812, thereby forfeiting the rather questionable "rights" which he had gained in the Dumfries property.

The Hon. WILLIAM DICKSON was a native of Dumfries, Scotland, where he was born in 1769. In 1792 he came to Canada and settled in Niagara, or Newark, as it was then called, where he engaged in the legal profession. He was a Loyalist of no moderate cast of sentiment, and took a part of prominence in the War of 1812. Considerable romance (if such it may be properly called) attached to his career here, on account of a duel in which he participated with a brother barrister

named Weeks, because of an imaginary affront given by him, to the latter in Court on one occasion. The meeting took place on American territory previous to the war, and resulted fatally to Weeks. In Young's "Reminiscences" it is also recorded of him, in a spirit of adulation, that, on the outbreak of the Mackenzie Insurrection he collected a contingent of Loyalists, and took a steamer to Toronto, where he actively assisted in defeating the insurgents at Gallows Hill. This is evidently a mistake, however, as the earliest arrival of outside troops on that occasion was that of a body from Hamilton, commanded by Col. McNab, who did not arrive till the battle was already concluded.

In 1816 Mr. Dickson purchased from Mr. Clarke, before referred to, the entire block of Dumfries lands, originally conveyed by Brant to Stedman, the consideration being £15,000 and the assumption of the mortgage for the original purchase price of \$2,841—being slightly in excess of one dollar per acre for the tract. He immediately took active measures to establish a village upon the Grand River, and place his lands upon the market. His business as chairman of the District Board of Magistrates had brought him in contact with a young Pennsylvanian who was destined to play an interesting part in the drama of Galt's history, wherefore we accord the following brief personal reference.

ABRAHAM SHADE was born in Wyoming Co., Pa., in 1793, and after acquiring the carpenter's trade found himself, in 1816, a tender for the construction of a court house, &c., at Niagara. Failing to secure that contract, he was induced by Mr. Dickson to visit his lands on the Grand River, with a view to entering the employ of the latter to superintend the construction of contemplated improvements. In July, 1816, he accompanied Mr. Dickson westward to view the scene of his proposed lands and residence. Arrived where Paris now stands, he secured an Indian guide to pilot them by the rough and difficult Indian trail up the east side of the river, during which journey they improved the opportunities for inspecting and exploring such as the numerous elevations afforded. Arrived upon the sight of Galt, then covered with a thick growth of forest trees, principally cedar, near the river, they satisfied themselves of the eligibility of this place for their proposed village (the entrance of Mill Creek promising ample water), and ascending the river to near where Preston now stands, domiciled for the night at the cabin of "Old (Nathaniel) Dodge," before mentioned. A more thorough exploration, not only of the proposed village site, but also of the Dickson Tract generally, by Shade, followed, all which confirmed the favorable impression at first formed in regard to the project of commencing operations. After returning to Niagara and visiting Buffalo to complete his preparations, Mr. Shade again threaded his way by the sinuous trails of the period to the junction of Mill Creek with Grand River, in charge of a small party of workmen, and by the erection of a rough two-story log building at where is now the corner of Main and Water Streets, founded what has since grown to be the most important manufacturing town in Western Ontario. This building was used by Mr. Shade for a dwelling, and later, a portion of it for a store, which he had in full blast within a few months after his advent upon the scene.

A survey of the lands followed, to which the name of "Dumfries" was accorded by Mr. Dickson, in honor of his native shire. There were already a very few "squatters" along Grand River, most of whom devoted their time and attention to trapping, hunting and fishing. Among the number was Ephraim Munson who, with his family, had located on the west bank of the river, about three miles below Galt. The remains of the old Miller mill were fitted up and served for gristing purposes, pending the construction of a more modern one, about three years later. The news having gone abroad that the fine lands of this section were on sale by the agent of the owner, resident on the spot, a considerable influx of settlement resulted in 1817, at the end of which year the population of Dumfries has been published as thirty-eight families, embracing one hundred and sixty-three persons, though an official return gave the number as just one hundred less in 1818. Which, if either, is accurate we do not dare assert. Some of these, probably the majority, were in what is now South Dumfries, but among them were the following named, between Galt and Brantford of the present: Donald Fraser, Thomas McBean, William Mackenzie, John Buchanan, Robert Carriek, Alexander Harvie, Daniel McArthur and Dugald McCall, who came in from Genesee Co., N. Y., and the three first named of whom were the first to obtain contracts for sale of any of the Dickson lands.

The progress of "Shade's Mill," as the village was called during its incipient stages, was of a very gradual order, which remark applies with equal truth to the Province at large. It is said there were just sixty buildings, of all descriptions, in the village the spring 1820, including the mill on the site now occupied by the Great Western Railway bridge, the new grist mill alluded to (called the Dumfries Mills), a distillery built in 1820, and a blacksmith shop. The only one of its residents at that period of its career who has been spared to see the dawn of the present year was Alexander Buchanan. A bridge had been built where the Main Street bridge now spans the river, in 1819, and the village was considerably benefited by the conveyance here of even the limited amount of traffic which that structure induced.

In the year last named, Mr. Dickson engaged John Telfer (who had been employed by the Hudson Bay Company in the North-West, but escaped from the respectable slavery in which they held their employees, in company with one Michael Knox, who became a local celebrity here) to go to Scotland and induce the removal hither of a number of the hardy residents of that historic clime. Mr. Telfer succeeded so well in his mission as to secure an almost exclusively Scottish foundation for the township's settlement, a feature it still possesses to a large degree.

The advancement of the village, meantime, though not impetuous, was discernible. In 1821 or thereabout the first tavern was opened by Morgan L. Hermonts, and two years later John Clark, familiarly known as "Old Johnny Clark," assumed its proprietorship. This was the first frame building in Galt, one and a half stories high, and stood quite near the corner of Main and Water Streets. Some time later Mr. Shade purchased the Dumfries Mills of Mr. Dickson, in common with two hundred acres of what is now the principal portion of the town (with the exception of such few lots as had been already purchased by others) for the stated consideration of £2,500. A prominent arrival of that period was Mr. Thomas Rich, who came from Gibraltar in 1825, and was employed for some time in the "Red Store" erected by Mr. Shade in the preceding year. He returned to Gibraltar soon after, but in 1827 took up a permanent residence here, and has since been numbered among the most prominent and useful citizens of the town.

GALT was so named, when its Post Office was first established, by Mr. Dickson, out of compliment to an early friend and schoolmate in Edinburgh, Mr. John Galt, father of Judge Galt, of this Province, and Hon. Sir A. T. Galt. This gentleman was, for some years after its

organization, the Canadian Manager of the Canada Company, and, in connection with his business as such, he paid Mr. Shade's mill (Galt) a visit in 1827, when he met by appointment a party of gentlemen, in whose company he proceeded to lay the foundation of what has since grown to be the Royal City of Guelph. One of the party in question was Dr. Dunlop, an eccentric character who was described by Mr. Galt as holding "a roving commission from the Canada Company," who soon thereafter settled in Goderich (which town was also founded and named by Mr. Galt), and was subsequently elected a couple of times to Parliament for the Huron District. From 1827 to 1836 Mr. Dickson made his residence in Galt, at the end of which period he left his interests here in the charge of his son William, in whose office, at the west end of the bridge, Kenneth Robertson acted as clerk and agent. In this capacity he obtained an apparently just reputation for severity toward the settlers whose purchases kept them in Dickson's debt, and received the maledictions of more than one of that class for his alleged lack of the milk of human kindness, when stress of circumstances compelled them to solicit clemency.

In a work of this scope it is impossible to dwell with minuteness upon the various and ever-shifting phases of social and commercial life which present themselves in the history of every town; so we must content ourselves with a brief glance at some of the most prominent features of its growth and development. It is reported that the first regular preacher who ministered to the spiritual wants of this community was Rev. William Stewart, who arrived about the winter of 1831-2. Among other pioneer preachers of the village and township were Rev. Messrs. Strang, Hanna, and Bullions. The first Presbyterian Church in Galt (St. Andrew's) was commenced in 1833. The previous year there had been a rough-sawn school house erected at the foot of Main Street, in which James Milroy, the first teacher, was succeeded by William McColl; but the best remembered of all its teachers was Mr. John Gwinlock, whose acquirements, or, at least, whose teaching, was confined in chief to the "three R's."

Galt had now arrived at the dignity of a village, possessing above two hundred inhabitants, among whom, or included among the arrivals soon after, were Dr. Robert Miller, Walter Benn, and Alexander Burnett. The two last named were men of great local prominence and popularity, whose active connection with the politics of that stormy period, in behalf of liberalism and liberty, is so well remembered by the older members of the community. A great disaster befell the place in the summer of 1834, when that terrible scourge, the Asiatic cholera, was brought to the place by a travelling menagerie, and within one week from Monday, July 28th, of that year, it claimed no less than thirty-three victims from among the residents of the village.

After recuperating from this dire calamity, the progress of Galt was ever onward toward a proud position in the list of Canadian towns. About the time of the Rebellion the attractions of the place had of late considerably increased, and the construction of macadamized highways to the principal surrounding points gave it a still further advantage. New arrivals of locusts were of frequent, almost daily, occurrence; new stores were established, new mechanics' shops opened, new hotels, churches and residences built, and there was a decided "boom" in the affairs and prospects of the place after the unsettled state of business incident to the Rebellion passed away. In 1850 the village assumed independent municipal existence, when the following named gentlemen were elected as members of its Pioneer Council: Andrew Elliott, Morris C. Lutz, Sidney Smith, William Ferguson, and John Davidson, of whom the first named was subsequently chosen Reeve, and Adam Ker was appointed Clerk and Treasurer.

In 1857 the first Town Council was elected, the village having been incorporated a town the year previous. The parties composing it were: John McNaughton, D. Ramore, Wm. Robinson, James Kay, Samuel Richardson, John Young, Thomas Armstrong, Thomas Sparrow, Ed. L. Cullen, Francis Lowell, Richard Blain, Robt. Scott, Benj. Hobson, and M. C. Lutz, the latter of whom was elected Mayor. The succession to the Mayoralty since then has been: Wm. Robinson, 1857-1861; John Davidson, 1861-1863; M. C. Lutz, 1863-1865; Adam Ker, 1865-1867; Wm. Robinson, 1867-1871; Richard Blain, 1871-1876; and D. Speirs, 1876-1880.

The situation of Galt is pleasant and eligible. Its business houses and factories lie along a valley on either side of Grand River, while the heights which flank the banks of the stream are graced with numerous fine and not a few elegant residences. The location is picturesque and attractive; for while, from the hills which hem in the town, its compact business streets, built up principally with the limestone for which the place is noted, present a busy and pleasing picture, a background of no less interest and much greater beauty is formed by the opposite range of hills, decked at intervals with luxuriant groves, or embellished by the skill of the architect. The commercial interests of Galt are largely of the manufacturing of different commodities, among which that of wood and iron working machinery rank first—not only locally but nationally—the product of these works being found in the equipment of a majority of the best factories of the Provinces. Three railways, the Great Western (W. G. & B. branch), the Grand Trunk, and the Credit Valley, furnish ample facilities for shipping and travel, and contribute in a very considerable degree to the prosperity and wealth of the town.

The history of Galt embraces the chief historical features of North Dumfries as well, so intimate have ever been the relations existing between the two. Of the township it is not necessary to say (in conformity with the scope of this sketch), that of the numerous townships in Western Canada peopled principally by the sons of Scotia, none has been more fortunate in the acquisition of that sound and excellent material out of which the best citizens are made. The pioneers of Dumfries came here in poverty, but by the diligent exercise of the God-given gifts of intelligence and muscle, they have hewn out for themselves and their posterity such homes as only the brave, strong, and patient can build in the Canadian bush; and this notwithstanding their township has not been as highly favored by nature as the others in this county. The

VILLAGE OF AYR is the place of second importance in North Dumfries. About the first act in the drama of its existence was the erection of grist and saw mills where the Ayr Agricultural Works now stand, by Abel Mudge, in 1824. There was then something of a settlement, but little development thereafter, among the pioneers having been the Luce, Kirkwall, Marlat, and Dobkins families, all of whom have since left the locality. On the death of Mr. Mudge, in 1822, his son Chapman assumed control of the mills, which were later purchased by Daniel Manley. The settlement was augmented about the time of the Rebellion by the arrival of the Wm. Richardson, Manson, and Howell families, and soon after 1840 commercial life opened in the village by the establishment of stores by Messrs. Baker,

Piper, and other pioneers in trade. In 1848 the Agr Agricultural Works were established by John Watson, the genial gentleman who has since carried the business to such a wide extent, and made a name for his implements which is not confined to any Province of our Dominion, not to the Dominion itself. Ayr now contains a population of about 700, such an array of stores as the size of the place and an extensive rural trade demands, the agricultural works referred to, employing about 100 men, and several hotels.

BRANTFORD is the name of a station on the W. G. and B. road between Galt and the main line at Harrisburg. The village is small, but serves the locality with postal advantages and the numerous *et ceteras*.

ROSEVILLE is located near the north-west corner of the township, in the midst of a very fine farming section. It contains the attractions usually incident to a rural village of about 200 inhabitants, consisting of the stores, shops, school, churches and residences which, with the inevitable hotel, constitute the claim of Roseville to be placed on the rank of Waterloo County villages.

### NEW HAMBURG AND WILMOT.

The Township of Wilmot lies immediately to the west of Waterloo and south of Wellesley, in Waterloo County. On the west it is bordered by North and South Eastshope, Perth County, and on the south by Bluebein and Blairford, in Oxford County. The topographical features of Wilmot are of a generally regular and inviting order, the principal part of the township having just sufficient roll to facilitate drainage, though toward the south and south-east more pronounced undulations are observable; but at no portion of its area is there any near approach to roughness. For the varied purposes of agriculture, Wilmot has no superior among the townships of Canada; its favorable climate, its fertile soil, its almost unexceptionable surface and numerous streams rendering it one of the most advantageous locations for the husbandman to be found on the continent.

The settlement of Wilmot lagged much behind that of not only Waterloo, but also Woodwich and Dumfries, and not until 1824 was there any considerable inroad upon the forests of this township effected by the axe of the sturdy pioneer. The founder of the first Wilmot community was Christian Naffziger, a Dutchman, who had come to America not later than 1820, in search of a location to plant a colony of Anish Monniettes.

After visiting New Orleans and vicinity, he travelled overland to Pennsylvania, where he found former friends and co-religionists, by whom he was directed to Canada, whither the stream of immigration from the German countries of that state was then tending. Naffziger accordingly came on to Canada, and made an exploration of the vacant lands west of the Dutch Company's Tract, now comprising the Township of Wilmot, and being favorably impressed therewith, went to Government headquarters to negotiate for homesteads for the party he proposed to settle here. Pleased with the prospect of securing the colony, the Government promised a free grant of fifty acres to each settler, and any excess over that area at very low rates.

In the same year, 1822, Naffziger returned to Holland to perfect his plans, though stopping in England *en route*, where he obtained from His Majesty a ratification of the bargain entered into with the Crown Land Department of Canada. He succeeded in gathering a quite numerous contingent of his own creed who, with their families, proceeded to their new homes in the forest of the western world in the summer of 1824. It was two years later, however, before Naffziger returned to Canada, having been detained in the Netherlands; but in August, 1826, he followed the vanguard of Wilmot's pioneers, in charge of a second party of considerable numbers.

The Anishmen, or Anish branch of the Monniet Church, differ from the main body of the latter merely in details of their faith, and absurd enough some of these details appear to those professing less technical creeds. In addition to their innate abhorrence of war, military duty of every description, the taking of judicial oaths, baptism of infants, &c., the Anishmen possess a practical prejudice against wearing buttons on their clothes, using hooks and eyes as substitutes. The shaving of the upper lip, but non-restraint of the beard upon the balance of the face, is another peculiarity among Anishmen. In habits and manner of living they are industrious, honest, law abiding and frugal; a prejudice against fast colors and all gaudiness of dress pervading every grade of their society.

The settlement of Anishmen in Wilmot continued and increased with the succeeding years, until it spread over the northern two-thirds of the township to the almost entire exclusion of other classes. The recruits came from the different principalities of Central Europe, including the German Provinces of Franco-Holland, Belgium, Bavaria and Switzerland, and so diligent and practical was their application to the work of clearing up their forest farms, that development progressed at a rapid and gratifying rate throughout their communities, and soon reached a stage second to that prevailing in no adjacent township. The tide of settlement did not extend as far westward as where

NEW HAMBURG now stands until about 1832, in which year, or the one succeeding, Wm. Scott took up a good portion of the present village site, built a cabin where now stands the fine residence of Samuel Mermer, M.P., and at once commenced the construction of a saw mill on Smith's Creek, or the River Nith, as it is variously called. Paul Bechner was the second to locate within the present village confines; and an early locatee was Samuel Mermer, who opened a blacksmith shop here in 1833, to which was soon added a wagon repair and building shop, and after carrying on that business until 1847, the foundry, which constituted the foundation of the extensive agricultural implement factory now forming so valuable an adjunct of the village industries. Mr. Mermer's brother Frederick came in about five years later, and the two have ever since been intimately associated with the mechanical industries of the place. A short time before Mr. Mermer's arrival, a Mr. Kickpatrick opened the first store in the village; but beyond the opening of another store by Titus G. S. Nevels, and the addition of such minor attractions as usually grace a hamlet of a couple of hundred inhabitants, New Hamburg did not develop until the construction past its doors of the Grand Trunk Railroad. It then enjoyed a "boom," which did not desert it until its growth-bud entitled it to municipal incorporation, which was accorded in 1867, the first gentleman elected to the Reeve'ship having been Mr. Nevels, above referred to, who was an Englishman of intelligence and enterprise, and a prominent figure in the history of the village until his removal hence a number of years ago.

When the G. T. R. was pushed through here, there were no villages worthy the name between New Hamburg and Berlin. In the vicinity of the former place, the pioneer farmers had been the Millers, Bremmans and Jacob Kingrich. Baden had no existence

as a village until the Grand Trunk pierced this region, when the place was founded by Jacob Beck, who laid out the plot in village lots, and started a store and mill. Nearly the entire village is now represented by the Messrs. Livingston's flax mills and appendages.

The four most southerly concessions of Wilmot, constituting Block A, were granted to the Canada Company as compensation for a considerable area of swamp-land which was included in their original grant. Between the first and second concessions the so-called Dundas Road was cut out by the Canada Company in 1829, as an avenue to their lands in the Huron Tract farther west; and along this road, the first settlers began to locate in 1832, or the succeeding year. Among the pioneers of that section were William Hobson, William Puddicombe and Edward Everett. Hobson was an Irishman, and arrived probably in 1831, when he took up a farm a short distance east from Hayville of to-day, which he conveyed to Puddicombe in 1833, and, in common with Everett, located at what is now Hayville, on the east side of the river. Each opened a hotel without delay; at the same time, while keeping those institutions in blast, they proceeded with the clearing of the bush, the diversion of a change from the fallow to the bar-room being often acceptable and not always unprofitable, considered in a pecuniary sense.

In 1835 Robert Hays came to this locality from the vicinity of Ingersoll. He was a native of the North of Ireland, and a miller by trade. He married in Ireland a niece of the American General McLure, came to America, and worked in the mills of Rochester, N.Y., some time before removing to Ingersoll, where he conducted a farm and tannery. On arriving here in Wilmot, he purchased the mill site at what has since become

HAYVILLE, and at once erected a saw mill, adding gristing facilities the year following, which was the first move toward starting a village, save the erection of the two taverns mentioned. Mr. J. C. Tracy, of Stratford, soon after opened a store here, but having other affairs to engage his attention, he sold out that enterprise to Mr. Hays the very night of opening, and that before getting all his goods unpacked and arranged. The Post Office was here established about 1837, under its present name and the Postmastership of Mr. Hays, who continued in business here until 1844, when he sold out, and removed to the Township of McKillop, where he subsequently died.

To the west of Hayville, the earliest settlers arrived from 1832 to 1834, and among them were Henry Puddicombe, John Laird, and the McKies, Walker, Mallett, Stockwell, Blingworth and other families. Each of the village some distance, and beyond the Great Pines (as one portion of the road was called), a man named Ford kept a farm and tavern combined, and among the other residents thereabout (most of whom located between 1832 and 1834) were David Miller, who kept store, and the Bean family. The Miller brothers had founded

NEW DUNDAS, and had considerable evidence of a village there in 1835. A reference to our sketch of Berlin will show them to have been the pioneer merchants of that place as well, where they opened business in 1825. After establishing trade here, they started out in branch enterprises, one of which, alluded to above, was conducted by David, on the Huron Road; while John kept charge of the Dundas concern. Another of the pioneers of the village was Mr. Alchin, who has long been Clerk of the Division Court for Wilmot. The attributes of New Dundas now include two stores, grist mill, tavern, mechanics' shops and woolen mill.

To the south of Hayville, the pioneers were John Stauffer, William Anderson, and his sons, John, William and James; John and William Bean, John and Cyrus Green, and others, who formed what is called the *Green and Bean* settlement, which was located about 1836. The original pioneer of that section was an eccentric individual named John Tennant, who always evinced a determination to keep ahead of the march of the settler, and on the approach of the latter, Tennant would pocket his effects and penetrate further into the woods. In this way he kept seeking "quietude," and fleeing from the haunts of life until he was steadily pursued all the way through Wilmot, Wellesley, Mornington and Elma Townships, by which time he began to encounter the vanguard of settlers from the townships farther west, and hemmed in between the ever converging streams of civilization, he gave up in despair, and embarked in hotel keeping at Newry, in the Township of Elma.

### WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.

Wellesley is the most north-westerly township of Waterloo County, extending to Wellington County on the north, Perth County on the west, and bordering Wilmot and Woolwich on the south and east respectively. Its soil is of a generally excellent quality, and finely adapted to purposes of agriculture; and its surface, though somewhat rolling in certain localities, is none too much so at any point. There are swampy areas as well, though their size is comparatively inconsiderable.

Wellesley was the latest settled of all the townships of this county. This was owing, not to its inferiority, but to the fact that its lands continued to be held by Government, and were not placed upon the market until the adjoining townships of Wilmot and Woolwich were well and almost densely settled. It would seem that the pioneers of Wellesley located about 1832; at any rate in that year there were a couple of residents on the west side of the Woolwich townline, where the village of Heidelberg now is, and there were none elsewhere in the township. The parties referred to were Messrs. Blum and Ansell, the latter a Frenchman. Blum settled Lot 11, Con. A, and Ansell Lot 9, north of the present highway, where he kept tavern for a considerable period. A short time thereafter, the line between that point and St. Clements displayed signs of civilization in the cabins of several settlers, among whom were the Beisang, Curtis and Faarstar families, who were followed by the Kertes and Lachner families, all whom were clustered in the vicinity of Heidelberg.

In St. Clements, the pioneer was Adolph Schittler; he was followed soon after by John Stroh, who opened a tavern where the present hotel stands, and in that hostelry was kept the Post Office, opened within a short time of the location of the pioneer. There had first been a log school house and chapel combined, erected in the vicinity, and on the advent of a missionary he was used to support the proposed post office, whereupon, like many pious missionaries of the Roman Catholic faith, he suggested the name of the saint whose name is now enshrined in the village cognomen. A store was opened by Borres and Glyck about forty years since, and the second store was established by Horbert Gillis. In 1844 Ambrose Starr arrived and located in the promising village, and from that time forward has exercised a leading influence in the shaping of local events.

The township was not surveyed till 1842, by which time there were several communities of "squatters" already located at different points,

though the real settlement did not commence until after the survey, when the land was taken up very early, and in an incredibly brief time Wellesley took rank among the rapidly developing townships of this region. The vicinity of

HAWKESVILLE was settled by the Hawke family about 1846. The brothers of that name, John, Gabriel, Percival and William, came in from England, accompanied by their father, who was then past his prime of life. They built a grist mill where the village now is as soon as they came in, and some time after a saw mill was built by Percival about four miles farther west; Gabriel opened the first store in the place soon after. There had been a squatter named Schweitzer on the site of the village, but the Hawkes bought his interest and he removed, while the family named continued to mould the destinies of the locality for many years, but the only one of them now remaining in the village of their founding is William. The village never reached a very exalted dignity—a population of about 200 being the limit of its importance in that respect. In 1846, or the year following, the vicinity of

LINWOOD was settled, its pioneers having been Thomas Hanson on the south-west, and John Brown on the north-east corner lot, east of the village. Robert Crooks was the first to locate, and others shortly after. To the west of Linwood, Wm. O. Woodman and Archibald Calder. To the west of Linwood, Wm. O. Woodman and Archibald Calder. To the west of Linwood, Wm. O. Woodman and Archibald Calder. Case were among the first to settle. The village now possesses a population of about 200, two stores, two hotels and the usual concomitants. The south-western part of the township numbered among its pioneers William Chalmers, on the Mornington town line, Charles Robertson and Christian Ernest. The locality of

CHOSCHILL was settled about the time of the township survey, the pioneers having been David and William Hastings. The Glaister family (consisting of mother and four sons) and George Hewitt located at a very early date. The village now boasts one store, two taverns, post and telegraph offices, and a small array of mechanics' shops. HAMMERS is a small and unpretending village near the south centre of the township, containing but few inhabitants and fewer attractions of a commercial order. The pioneers of this locality were John Moser and the Kraitsch family, who came in about 1842.

WELLESLEY VILLAGE is the most considerable place in the township as regards commercial and industrial attractions. Its population is now almost exclusively German-speaking. The site where the place now stands was originally located by John Smith, a squatter, who came in before the survey, and afterwards built the first saw mill in the village. He was here but a short time when a Mr. Miller came in and purchased his interests, soon after which he sold a number of lots to meet the demand of increasing locatees, and the village was pretty well under way ere the survey had been long completed. Other pioneers were Christian Bohart, Charles Ottoman and John Zoeger, the last named of whom opened the first store in town, but subsequently removed. Twenty years since the two stores which the village boasted were kept by John Saer, and Christian and Henry Doehring, the brothers last named operating a grist mill as well. Among the present attributes of Wellesley are two furniture factories, knitting factory, grist and saw mills, foundry, three carriage factories, woolen factory, three stores, an equal number of hotels, three German Protestant churches, and a population of about six hundred.

In the north-western corner of Wellesley, an Irish settlement was early formed. The balance of the western survey is peopled chiefly by English and Scotch; Amishmen in the south-east, and a settlement of Hessian Lutherans along the "Fifth Line," constitute, all in all, quite a medley, so far as nationality is concerned; but the chief rivalry existing between the different classes has been the praiseworthy one of industry and decorum.

### TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH.

This township, almost triangular in shape, occupies the northernmost position among the townships of Waterloo County, resting with its base upon Waterloo Township, and extending northward to where it terminates between converging sides, whose boundaries meet at the north. It is watered by the Grand and Conestogo Rivers, whose respective courses through the township, considered in conjunction with the numerous smaller streams, leave little to be desired in the way of drainage or water supply.

That portion of Woolwich lying east of Grand River, and including also the present Township of Pilkington, in Wellington County, was granted by the Six Nation Indians to William Wallace, before the vanguard of settlement extended hither, the consideration being £15,364 for \$6,078 acres. Wallace was a Niagara man at the period when immigration hither commenced, and sold that portion of the township lying between Grand River and Pilkington to a Dutch company, similar to the one which purchased the major part of Waterloo Township.

The pioneer of Woolwich was a squatter named Thomas Smith, the precise date of whose arrival is uncertain, though it is believed he came in as early as 1810, when he located just east of the Grand River, near Conestogo of the present. In 1813 George Eby settled on Lot 2, west of the Grand River, and just on the Waterloo border. He had then a quite numerous family of children, which number was later considerably augmented, nearly all of whom have since held places of prominence and trust among their fellow-citizens. A couple of years after Eby's arrival David Cross came in and took up a farm in the same locality, being followed by Henry Martin and David Muselman, all of whom settled in the vicinity of where the Village of Conestogo has since appeared. Mr. Martin named was a son of Peter Martin, who located on the Waterloo side of the border, somewhat farther west, a number of years before. Samuel Reist and John Ginchier were next to arrive, the former (who still lives, at the age of 87) locating Lot 34, between Conestogo and St. Jacob's. The first mill in the township was established about 30 years since at

CONESTOGO, by David Muselman. Charles Hendry (still in business) was the pioneer merchant of the same village. The appearance of Conestogo at the present time indicates a population of about 300, and displays such an array of stores, shops and offices as may be expected in a brisk rural village of such size. The settlement of

St. JACOB'S and vicinity was effected during the third decade of the present century, John E. Bowman being the pioneer of the place. He took up his residence on the crest of the slight hill just north of the river. There was nothing but a rural settlement hereabouts till 1851, when Jacob Snyder (then of Waterloo) built saw and grist mills on the Conestogo. A Scotchman named Chalmers (since returned to Scotia) opened the first store soon after the mill was established. The second store was opened by George Eby, of the third generation; and a post office, started near that time also, was presided over by Peter Eby as postmaster. St. Jacob's received its name from the Snyders, father and son, who were first mill



proprietors here, each sporting the name of "Jacob," to which the "Saint" was prefixed. On the violent death of the younger of these, in the terrible Desjardins bridge accident, the mill was purchased by Jacob Eby; so the coincidence of Christian names in connection with the first industrial enterprise of the village resulted in giving the place its name. That portion of the township between St. Jacob's and Heidelberg, and in the latter locality, on the Wellesley town line, claims among its pioneers John Meyer and John Kressler, the first named of whom platted the south-east portion of the village named, and the latter of whom held the commission of Postmaster on the establishment of Heidelberg Post Office.

ELMIRA is the most considerable village in Woolwich, though St. Jacob's, with a population of about 400, is by no means an insignificant trade centre. The principal adjuncts of business and social life in Elmira at present are grist mills, furniture, carriage, and woollen factories, bank, public school, employing five teachers, English and German Methodists, two Lutheran and Presbyterian churches, a weekly paper (the *Ansager*, twelve years in existence), and a population of 700, supporting in connection with rural trade about half a dozen stores.

The first to locate in this vicinity was Edward Bristow, who selected a home just south of the village about fifty years ago. He soon found a neighbor in George Streeter, who settled near him, after which Thomas Walker came in and took up the farm on the north-west corner of the principal "corners" of the village. James Gass took up the north-east corner soon after, and ere long Robert Canning purchased a part of Gass' lot and took up residence thereon. In 1845 George Garling located just east of the village, where the cemetery now is, at which time only those named had settled in the vicinity, but about a mile north, John O'Brien and Martin Halfpeny had been located since about 1840. Edmund Thomas and one Grunnett were also in at a very early date, and before the influx of Germans to the locality commenced.

Edward Bristow was the first to start a store (in connection with which he conducted a tavern) in Elmira, having opened the latter enterprise about 1845, and the store some time later. The next firm to open a store was composed of Samuel Weaver and Isaac Winger, who located on the south-west corner of the village. Winger subsequently left the firm, and built the store on the south-east corner. A Post Office had been opened under the name of West Woolwich, with Bristow as Postmaster, but on the Weaver-Winger store being opened, it was removed to what had now become a more central locality, and from that event also may the existence of the village be dated. Messrs. Good and Winger subsequently platted a great many lots, and the inducements held out to mechanics, etc., were such as to attract considerable numbers of those classes, among the first of whom were Henry and Hiram Martin, who established a furniture factory about twenty-five years ago, from which time to the present the progress of Elmira has been satisfactory and continuous.

The settlement of the northern extreme of Woolwich was formed at a somewhat later day than the vicinity of Elmira, but the locality rapidly developed after the first influx of settlers, and now ranks among the most advanced and prosperous to be found in the county.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

HUGO KRANZ, M.P., of Berlin, is a native of Hesse, born in 1834. He came to America with his father's family in 1851. After a residence of three years in Buffalo, they removed to Berlin, and opened a mercantile establishment under the firm name of C. Kranz & Son, which is still carried on by the subject of this paragraph. Mr. Kranz has passed a pretty thorough graduation of the offices of trust incident to our municipal system; beginning as Village Clerk of Berlin, and arriving, in September, 1878, in the office of M.P. for North Waterloo, elected as the Conservative candidate. In his parliamentary career he has won a place among the most useful and practical members of the House, for the business of which he has been well fitted by a large natural talent, and wide range of commercial business.

SAMUEL MEYER, M.P., of New Hamburg, was born in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, in 1823. He emigrated with his father's family to Canada in 1837, when they settled a bush farm two miles west of

the village, where he now resides, and there his father lived to the age of 96 years. After learning the blacksmith's trade in Preston, our subject opened a shop in New Hamburg in 1844, from the operations of which he embarked in foundry and implement manufacturing business some years later, and this branch of industry he still carries on. By the exercise of a large degree of energy and a progressive spirit above the average, he has succeeded in amassing a large and valuable property in the village of his residence and environs; though in order so to do he has not neglected to give that attention to matters of a public nature which is incumbent upon all good citizens. He has held successively the various offices of municipal honor, from Councillor to Warden, and after suffering defeat in a contest for parliamentary honors in 1877, was elected in 1878 to the House of Commons for South Waterloo, as a Conservative and advocate of a protective tariff.

JAMES LIVINGSTON, M.P.P., of Baden, is a native of Lanarkshire, Scotland, where he was born in 1838. Receiving a parish education, and spending some time at his father's trade of weaving, he came to Canada, and after a year spent in Mornington, Port County, he entered the employ of Messrs. M. B. & J. S. Pettine, of Conestogo, where he was several years engaged as foreman in their flax manufacturing establishment. In 1865, in company with his elder brother John, he commenced flax growing at Wellesley Village, from which their business extended, until now they cultivate about 5,000 acres of that plant annually in different parts of the county. For the past seven years these gentlemen have carried on flax and linseed oil manufacturing at Baden, of which village they own the major part. The subject of our sketch has taken a very conspicuous part in public affairs as well, and during several terms has presided as Reeve of Wilmet. In June, 1879, he was elected to the Ontario Legislature for South Waterloo, as the candidate of the Liberal party, since which time he has held the seat in that body, discharging its duties with a degree of ability highly complimentary to himself and satisfactory to his constituents.

E. W. B. SNIDER, M.P.P., of St. Jacob's, is a son of Elias Snider, who was among the early residents of Waterloo Village, where the subject of our sketch was born in 1842. After arriving at manhood he spent a number of years operating the extensive milling establishment at German Mills, Waterloo Township; but about ten years since he purchased the large mills at St. Jacob's, which he has conducted with success ever since, in connection with other mills in New Dundee. Mr. Snider has spared sufficient time from business affairs to become familiar with the leading political problems, and to keep himself fully abreast of the times in his information on all public topics. Has taken a leading and practical interest in the various political campaigns in the county, on the Liberal side of the question, and in June last was nominated and elected by that party to the seat in the Ontario Legislature rendered vacant by the resignation of Moses Springer, the former member.

WILLIAM SNIDER, Warden of the County of Waterloo, is one of the most enterprising and progressive business men of Waterloo, the town of his present residence as well of his birth, which event occurred in 1845. He is a son of Elias Snider, whose connection with the milling interests of this town have been before adverted to. William is one of a family of twelve children, eight of whom were sons. He learned the milling trade in his youth, and has ever since continued his connection therewith, being senior member of the firm of William Snider & Co., whose business is extensive and successful. Mr. Snider has been for some years an active participant in municipal affairs, as a result of which he now holds the Wardenship of the county; and in all other matters of local or general interest, he has ever made his influence felt in promoting the material, intellectual or moral status of the community in which he resides.

LEWIS KRIBS, Reeve of the Village of Hespeler, is a native of Eramosa Township, Wellington County, where he was born in 1829. His father, Aaron Kribbs, was also a native of Canada, though of German extraction. Mr. Kribbs, on arriving at his majority, acquired the trade of a carpenter, and for a considerable period engaged extensively in contracting and building. He at present conducts saw, shingle, and planing mills in Hespeler, and owns as well two fine farms in the vicinity, aggregating 450 acres. His experience as a municipal legislator has been quite extended, embracing a period of membership

in the Waterloo Township Council, during a portion of which he occupied the Reeve's Chair, and, since his removal to Hespeler, a term in the Reeveship of that village. Mr. Kribbs is a Conservative in politics, an active and influential man in political campaigns, and holds a high position in the local councils of that party.

OTTO PRAESPRICH, Reeve of New Hamburg, editor and proprietor of the *New Hamburg Independent and Canadian Volksblatt*, was born in Grossenhain, Saxony, in 1833, and at the age of twenty-two years settled in Wellesley Township. After three years spent in teaching he removed to New Hamburg, and pursued the same profession until 1863, when he secured the editorial management of the journal which he has ever since conducted and now owns. Even since abandoning the teacher's profession he has taken a most lively and practical interest in education, and in that connection has served almost continuously on the School Board, in addition to which he has engaged in local politics to a considerable extent, has served several years in the village Council, and was, at the last municipal election, promoted to the Reeveship of New Hamburg, which, at this writing, he still holds.

ISAAC GROH, Reeve of the Township of Waterloo, was born on the farm where he now resides, in the south-eastern portion of the township, fifty-two years ago. His ancestors were among the pioneers of the township, the family first coming hither from Pennsylvania in 1804, since which date they have been closely identified with the material affairs of this part of Waterloo, and of the community in general. Mr. Isaac Groh's entire life has been spent amid the scenes which now surround him, where, since attaining to man's estate, he has held a place of prominence among those whose efforts have been directed to the furtherance of local interests. He has served five years in the township Council, during the past two of which he has occupied the Reeve's chair.

THERON BUCHANAN, Reeve of the Township of North Dumfries, is a son of Alexander Buchanan, who came to this township among the pioneers, and settled on the farm where his son now resides. Theron was born on this farm in 1836, and has here passed almost his entire life in the pursuit of agriculture. He has long held a place on Commission of the Peace, and has about ten years' experience in the municipal Council of the township, two of which he spent as Deputy Reeve and three as Reeve.

T. B. SNIDER, Deputy Reeve of Waterloo Township, is a son of Elias Snider, and brother of E. W. B. Snider, M.P.P., and reckons among his ancestors some of the pioneers of this county, to whose efforts its development to its present high status is largely attributable. He was born in Waterloo Village in 1850, and there he grew to manhood. At the age of nineteen he assumed control of his father's extensive flouring mills, and later became a partner with his brother, A. B. Snider, in operating the large German Mills, an establishment which has been in commission about sixty years. He also participates in the promotion of agricultural matters, and has been largely instrumental in the improvement of the farm stock of the county by the importation of choice beasts from abroad. He has taken part as well in the conduct of municipal matters for several years past, and is now serving his third year in the township Council in the capacity of Deputy Reeve.

JAMES PHIN, of Waterloo Township, resides upon a very fine farm a short distance north of Hespeler, a view of which appears among our illustrations on another page. He is the eldest son of James Phin, a native of Roxburghshire, Scotland, who spent the greater portion of his youth in the County Monaghan, Ireland, in charge of a large estate, removing to Canada in 1833. The subject of our sketch is President of the Reform Association of the township, has been a Justice of the Peace for a number of years, as has his father also, both of whom have been considered as among the thoroughly representative agriculturists of the township.

JOHN PHIN, the younger brother of the gentleman alluded to above, has also spent his life in the locality of his present residence. He has taken a foremost part in promoting the prosperity of the locality, and has evinced a degree of public spirit and an interest in political matters which secured him the Conservative nomination for the Legislature in 1875, but the Liberal majority in the Riding was too large to admit of his overcoming it, and he suffered defeat.

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